美味しんぼ

15

雁屋 哲・花咲アキラ

ビッグコミックス好評発売中！

Ｆ〈エフ〉（六田登）……１～９集
味いちもんめ（あべ善太・森田よしみ）……１～４集
二匹のブル（瀬叩龍・岩重孝）……１～８集
明日カッブィン（小池一夫・木村えいじ）…１～５集
あどりぶシネ倶楽部（細野不二彦）……全１巻
キスより簡単（石坂啓）……全６巻
ミセスＫに伝言（神戸さくみ）……全１巻
オレの奥さん！（はやせ淳）……全１巻
HARD METAL（松本零士）……１～２集
Cryingフリーマン（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全９巻
マネー・ハンター（玄太郎）……１～３集
陶子（篠原とおる）……１～４集
パンツが大好き（よしまさこ）……全１巻
総務部総務課山口六平太（林律雄・高井研一郎）……１～４集
はっぱ64（山本直樹）……全３巻
妻をめとらば（柳沢きみお）……１～６集
YAWARA！（浦沢直樹）……１～５集
ぼくの西鉄ライオンズ（長谷川法世）……１集
神の左手悪魔の右手（楳図かずお）…１～５集
土佐の一本釣りPART2純平（青柳裕介）……１～３集
ボギー（やまさき十三・芳谷圭児）……１～３集
踊る警官（浦沢直樹）……全１巻
冒険してもいい頃（みやすのんき）…１～５集
マドンナ（くじらいいくこ）……１～５集
BROTHERS（小池一夫・叶精作）……１～４集
信長（工藤かずや・池上遼一）……１～２集
ALICE12（新谷かおる）……全１巻
くどき屋ジョー（ジョージ秋山）…１～２集
極めてかもしだ（山本直樹）……１～３集
博多新聞東京支社（長谷川法世）……１～２集
スローニン（吉田聡）……１～３集
寄席芸人伝（古谷三敏）……全11巻
ＡＤ物語（国友やすゆき）……１集
あんたの代理人（高井研一郎）……１集
アレルギー戦士（石坂啓）……全１巻
トップはオレだ!!（とりいかずよし）…１集
萬川集海（小池一夫・神崎将臣）……１集
浦沢直樹短編集ＮＡＳＡ（浦沢直樹）……全１巻
夢みるトマト（石坂啓）……１～２集
ザ・ジュニア（神田圭介・叶精作）……１集

装丁／海野一雄　　カバー・フォト／菊地和男

美味しんぼ

15 究極vs至高

作・雁屋 哲　画・花咲アキラ

美味しんぼ

15 究極vs至高

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小学館
BC1405

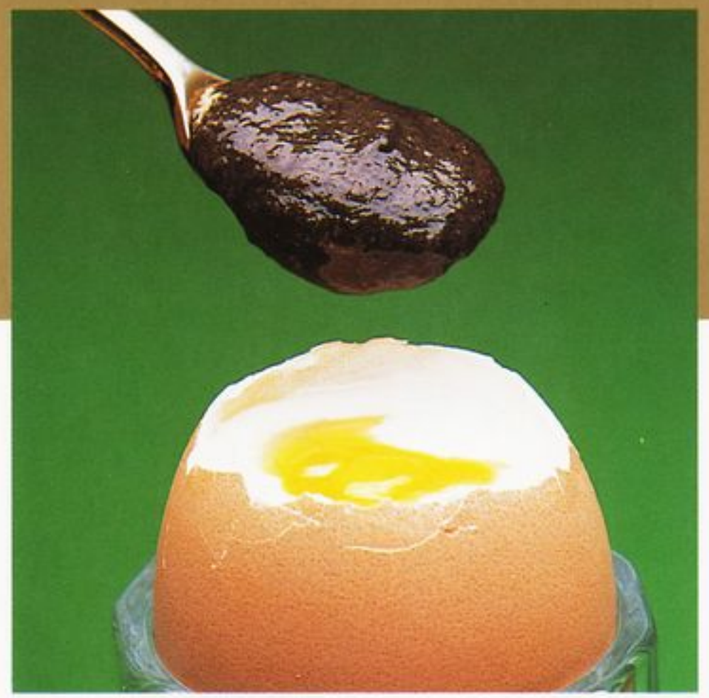
BIG COMICS

美味しんぼ

15

究極VS至高

作・雁屋 哲　画・花咲アキラ



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BC1405

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小学館　定価480円

雁屋　哲　花咲アキラ 著作集

■ ビッグコミックス

美味しんぼ……1～15集発売中

■ビッグコミックス好評発売中／■

カムイ外伝（白土三平）……全20巻
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ホテル探偵DOLL（さいとう・たかを）…全3巻
おみやさん（石森章太郎）……全4巻
土佐の一本釣り（青柳裕介）……1～25集
陽だまりの樹（手塚治虫）……全11巻
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ドン〈極道水滸伝〉（本宮ひろ志）……全3巻
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あぶさん（水島新司）……1～39集
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青春の尻尾（小池一夫・平野仁）……全6巻
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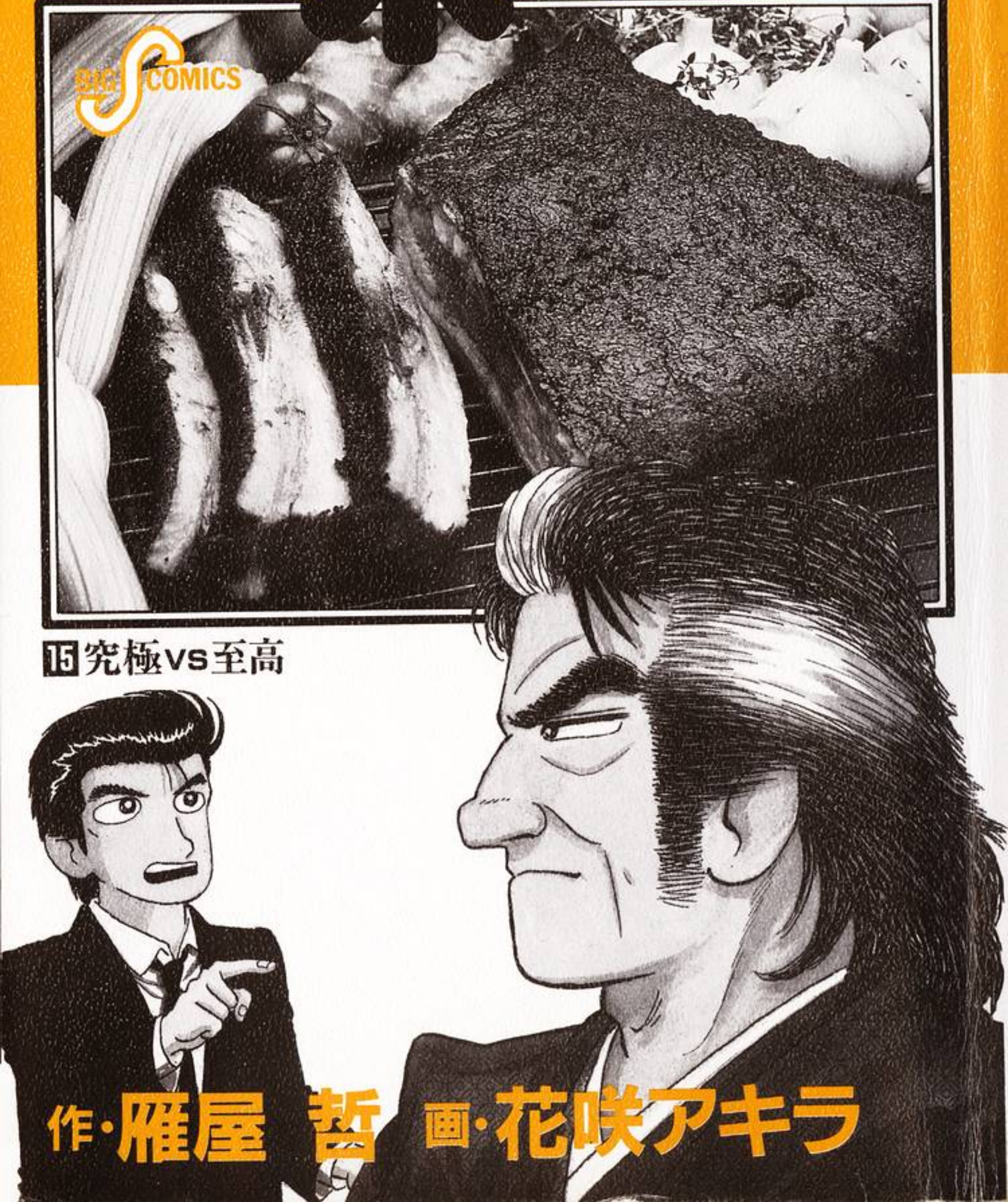
紅い芝生（小池一夫・弘兼憲史）……全6巻
人間交差点（矢島正雄・弘兼憲史）…1～18集
愛しのチイパッパ（北見けんいち）……1～17集
めぞん一刻（高橋留美子）……全15巻
ぼっけもん（岩重孝）……全14巻
軽井沢シンドローム（たがみよしひさ）……全9巻
羽なしティンカー・ベル（柳沢きみお）…全3巻
モノクローム・レター（村生ミオ）……全2巻
傷追い人（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全11巻
瑠璃色ゼネレーション（柳沢きみお）…全7巻
わたしは真悟（楳図かずお）……全10巻
微熱MY LOVE（村生ミオ）……1～13集
なぜか笑介（聖日出夫）……1～15集
ホットDOC（きむらはじめ 加藤唯史）……1～11集
パンドラ（里中満智子）……全3巻
かっとび米熊氏（北見けんいち）……全1巻
美味しんぼ（雁屋哲・花咲アキラ）…1～15集
パラダイス通信（神戸さくみ）……全3巻
風のノブ（前川K三）……1～7集
利平さんとこのおばあちゃん（法月理栄）……1～2集
僚平新事情（六田登）……全2巻
1½いっかにぶんのいち（むつ利之）…全2巻
ホテル（石ノ森章太郎）……1～8集
男の自画像（柳沢きみお）……1～4集
パイナップルARMY（工藤かずや 浦沢直樹）……1～7集
ブルー・ジーン（くじらいいくこ）……全3巻

美味しんぼ（おいしんぼ）

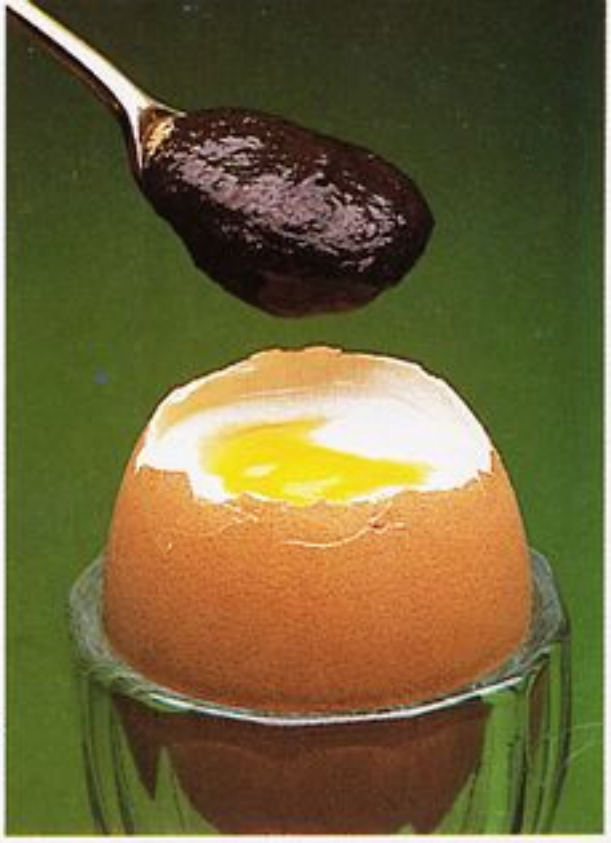
BIG COMICS

15 究極vs至高



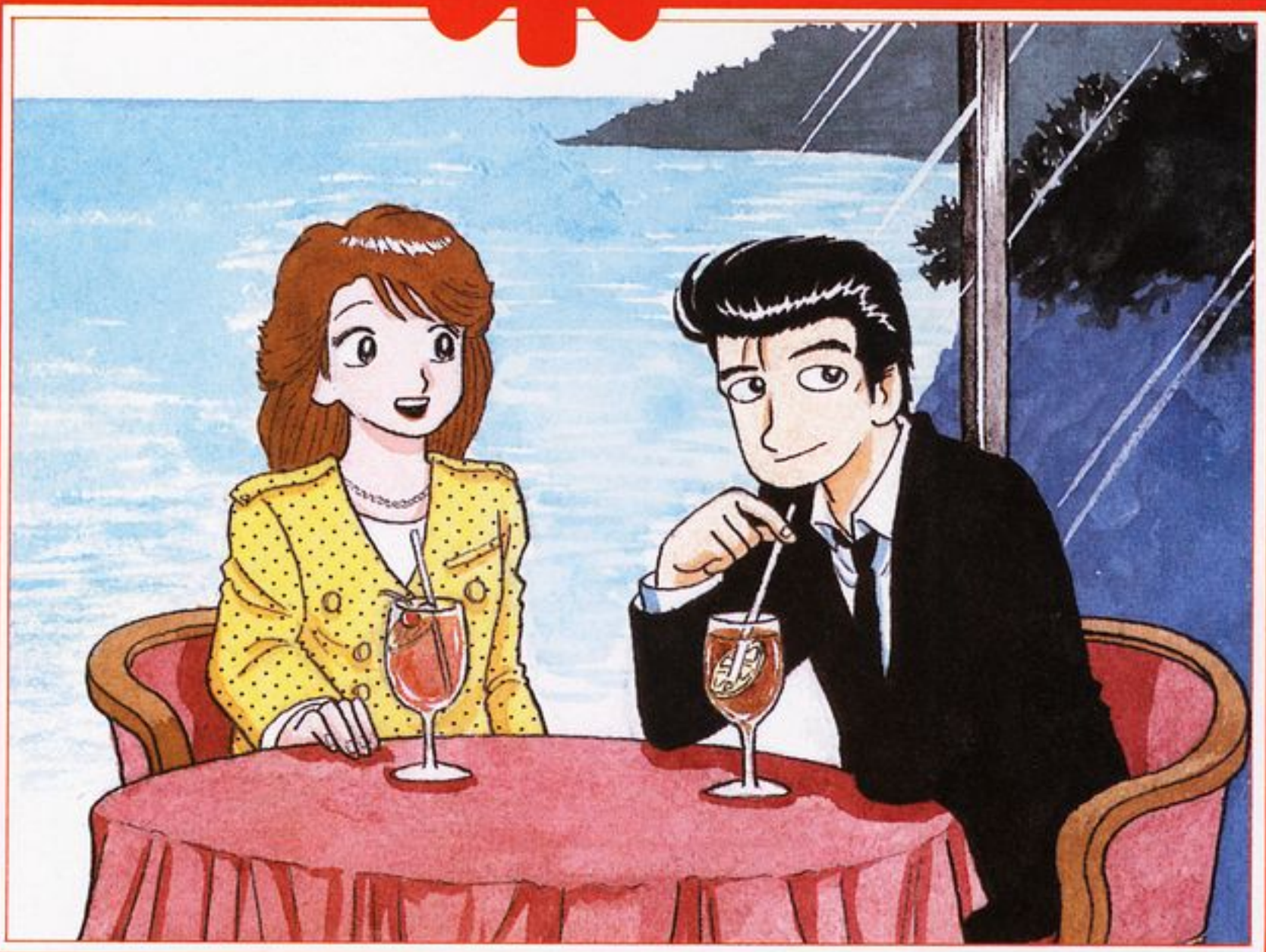
作・雁屋 哲　画・花咲アキラ

15 究極vs至高



半熟卵にフレッシュトリュフ（うらごししたもの）とフォン・ド・ヴォーで作った別添のソースを加えながら食べる逸品。
調理・ドデュ・ダーンド(銀座)

美味(おい)しんぼ



美味しんぼ

15 究極VS至高

第1話　究極VS至高(前編)……3
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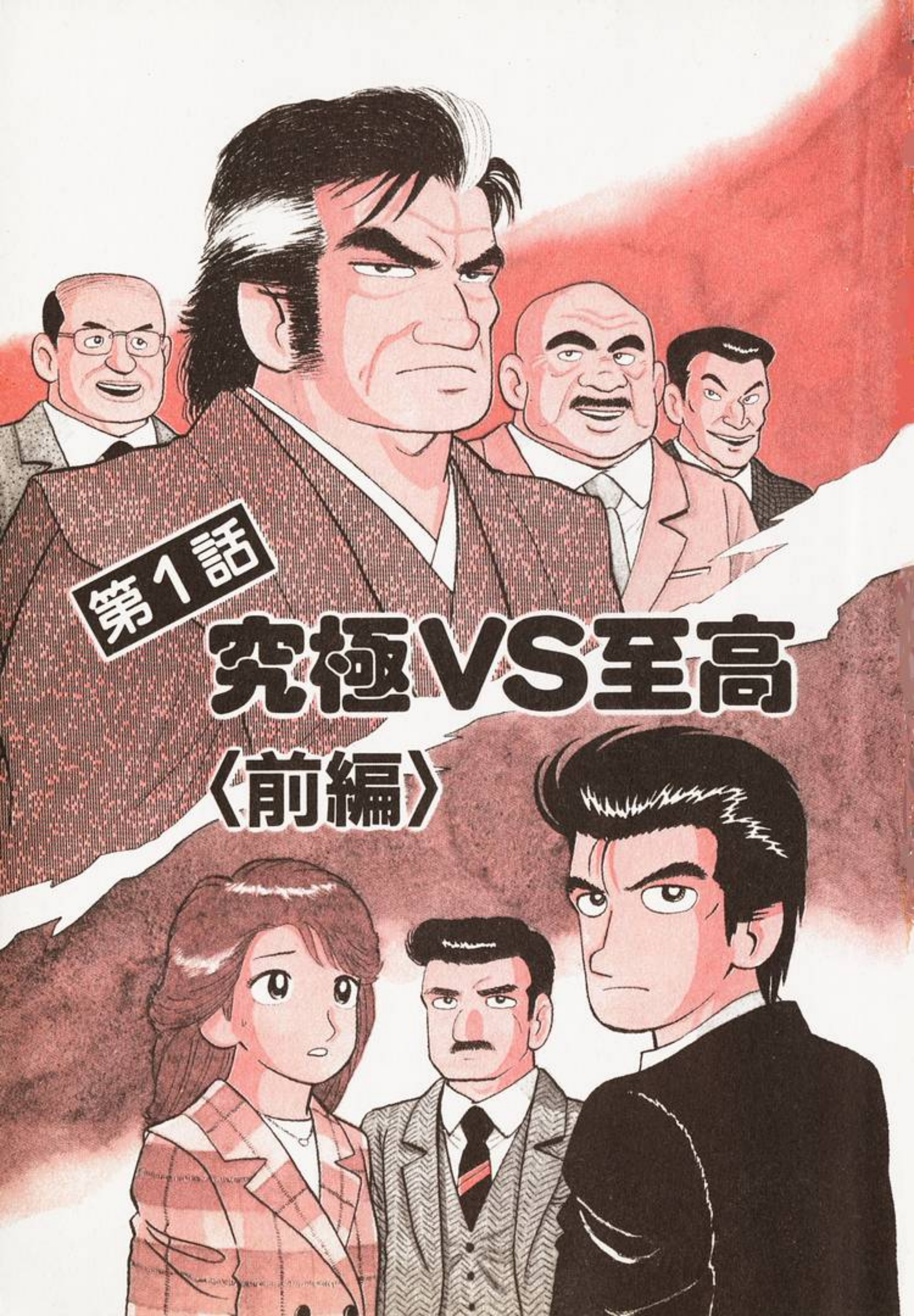

第1話
究極VS至高
〈前編〉

OUR BRILLIANT PLAN HAS BEEN STOLEN!!

THE TEITO NEWS HAS STRUCK!!

OH NO, OH NO!!

2

CH- CHAIRMAN KOIZUMI...

I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!!!!!
ドカ

OHHH-- A TRUE MODEL OF A SALARYMAN...!
UGH... HERE I AM, BATTLING A HANGOVER JUST TO GET TO WORK,

UH... UM, DEPUTY CHIEF, WHAT'S WRONG...?
STAY CALM...

BAH!

OUCH, OUCH, OUCH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
ポカポカ

RIGHT FROM THE CRACK OF DAWN!
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON HERE?!
DAMN IT...

?
GET TO PRESIDENT OHARA'S OFFICE, NOW!!

3

GET MOVING ALREADY!!

COME OVER HERE!!

?

HEY THERE, GOOD MORNING!

.....

4

JUST READ IT AND FIND OUT!!

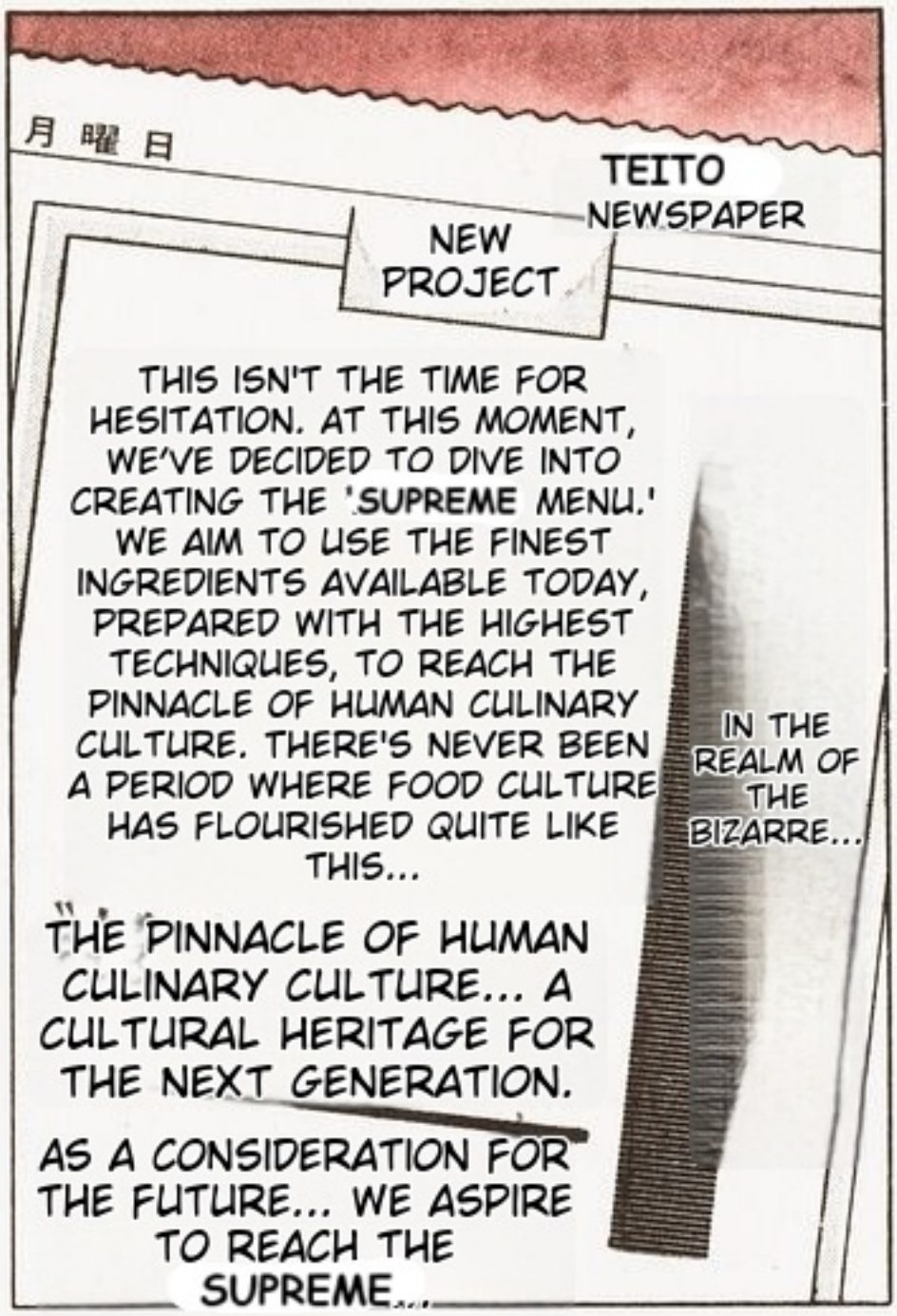
バ

HUH?

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON HERE...?

IT RESEMBLES OUR 'ULTIMATE MENU' QUITE A BIT, DOESN'T IT...?
WAIT, IT'S CALLING IT THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'!

JUST READ ON TO SEE WHAT'S NEXT!
WHAT A CAREFREE THING TO SAY!


月曜日
TEITO NEWSPAPER
NEW PROJECT
THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR HESITATION. AT THIS MOMENT, WE'VE DECIDED TO DIVE INTO CREATING THE 'SUPREME MENU.' WE AIM TO USE THE FINEST INGREDIENTS AVAILABLE TODAY, PREPARED WITH THE HIGHEST TECHNIQUES, TO REACH THE PINNACLE OF HUMAN CULINARY CULTURE. THERE'S NEVER BEEN A PERIOD WHERE FOOD CULTURE HAS FLOURISHED QUITE LIKE THIS...
"THE PINNACLE OF HUMAN CULINARY CULTURE... A CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.
AS A CONSIDERATION FOR THE FUTURE... WE ASPIRE TO REACH THE SUPREME...
IN THE REALM OF THE BIZARRE...

WHAT THE HECK!!

NOW, AS WE EMBARK ON CRAFTING THE 'SUPREME MENU', OUR COMPANY HAS ENLISTED THE FINEST CULINARY MASTERS OF OUR TIME...
HUH?

WE'VE ENLISTED THE LEGENDARY CULINARY MASTER, YUZAN KAIBARA TO TAKE THE HELM. HIS CULINARY PROWESS HAS EARNED HIM UNPARALLELED FAME AS A MASTER OF THE WRITTEN WORD, AND HE HAS MADE WAVES IN THE WORLD OF JAPANESE CUISINE THROUGH THE GOURMET CLUB. SURELY, OUR READERS ARE WELL AWARE OF HIS ILLUSTRIOUS REPUTATION.

海原雄山氏が総指揮

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF YUZAN KAIBARA, WE EXPECT TO ACHIEVE 'SUPREME' RESULTS!

KAIBARA YUZAN?!

6

.....!

THEY'RE EVEN SAYING THAT STARTING A MONTH FROM NOW, EVERY MONTH, THEY'LL UNVEIL A NEW 'SUPREME MENU' IN THE SUNDAY FEATURE PAGES!

THIS IS A DIRECT CHALLENGE FROM THE TEITO NEWSPAPER TO OUR QUEST FOR THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'!

GOURMET WARRIORS 15

YOU'VE RUINED OUR COMPANY'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!!

THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU TWO WERE SLACKING OFF AND DRAGGING YOUR FEET!

BUT THEY'LL PUBLISH IT BEFORE US!

THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL NEWS CLEARLY KNEW ABOUT OUR PROJECT AND STOLE IT!

...

AS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR, IT'S ON ME.

OH, IF YOU SAY YOU'RE GOING TO RESIGN, THEN I WON'T STOP YOU.

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!

I COULD KILL YOU FOR THIS!!!

7

I'M THE ONE TO BLAME, SO IF I QUIT, IT'LL ALL BE OVER!

NO, TANIMURA-SAN... DON'T RESIGN...

WAIT.....

ALRIGHT.

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE YOU CAN TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH A MESS?

I'M TELLING YOU TO WAIT!

I'M QUITTING TOO; IT'S ALL MY FAULT, AND YAMAOKA-SAN'S AS WELL!

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY FIGHT?!

IF OUR KEY PLAYER QUITS, OUR DREAM OF CREATING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' WILL VANISH, ALLOWING TEITO TO REVEL IN 'SUPREME MENU' GLORY!

IS IT NOT INFURIATING TO LEAVE THE COMPANY AS A DEFEATED DOG?!

OUR COMPANY, ALREADY STRUGGLING WITH STOLEN IDEAS AND FIERCE COMPETITION, WILL ENDURE THIS AS IS...

EVEN IF YOU WALK AWAY, THE COMPANY WILL REMAIN.

MY INSIDES ARE BOILING WITH RAGE!

ESPECIALLY WITH KAIBARA YUZAN AT THE HELM THERE.

BOSS, I CAN'T TAKE THIS LEVEL OF FRUSTRATION ANYMORE!

GOURMET WARRIORS 15

WHEN YOU SAY 'CHANGE OUR DIRECTION'...

THUS, WE HAVE TWO PATHS BEFORE US!

HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, IT SEEMS THE TEITO NEWS WILL BE ROLLING OUT THEIR CONTENT BIT BY BIT EACH MONTH...

SHALL WE COMPLETELY ABANDON OUR PLAN AND BECOME THE UNDERDOGS, OR SHALL WE CHANGE OUR DIRECTION AND TAKE THEM ON?!

WE WILL BEAT THEM!!!

WE'LL KEEP ANNOUNCING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' EVERY MONTH, JUST LIKE TEITO!!!

IF THERE'S ANY OTHER WAY TO AVOID BEING THE UNDERDOGS, THEN SPEAK UP!!

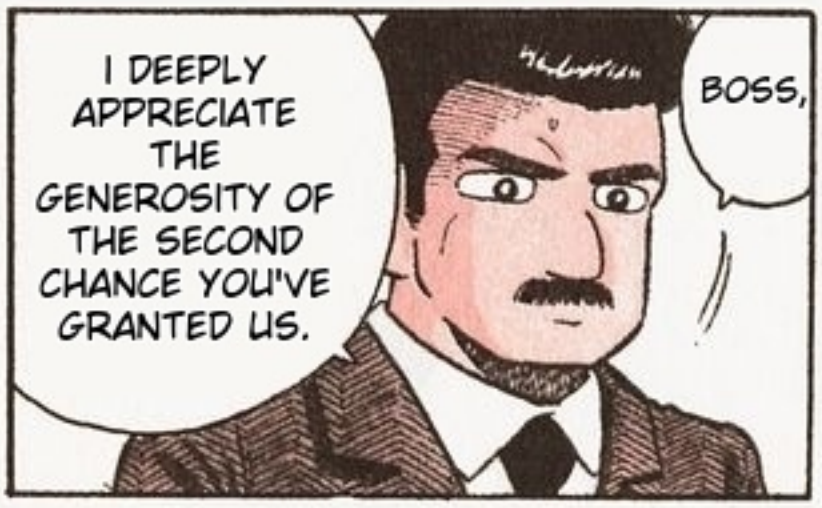
AND YOU EXPECT US TO OUTSHINE THEM IN CONTENT?!

EVERY MONTH, AN 'ULTIMATE MENU'?!

10

.....

GOURMET WARRIORS 15



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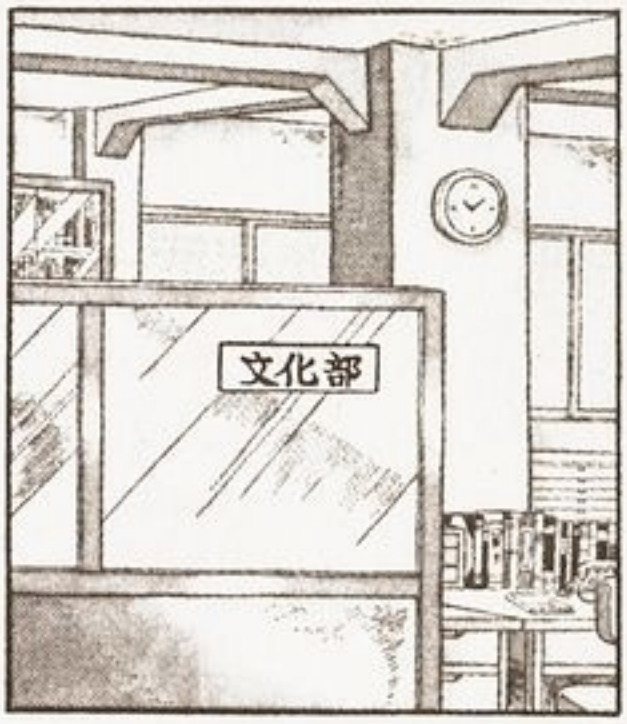
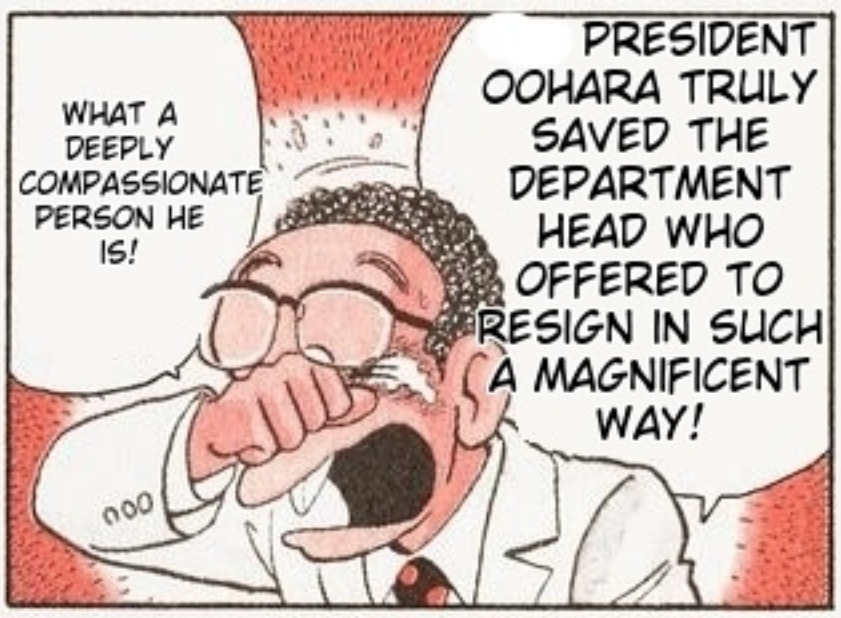

文化部

SUCH A CLASSIC MOVE FROM PRESIDENT OOHARA, FULL OF FLAVOR AND FINESSE.


WHAT A DEEPLY COMPASSIONATE PERSON HE IS!
PRESIDENT OOHARA TRULY SAVED THE DEPARTMENT HEAD WHO OFFERED TO RESIGN IN SUCH A MAGNIFICENT WAY!
ooo

12

……

AFTER ALL, THEY'VE GOT KAIBARA YUZAN...
STILL, IT'S TOUGH, ISN'T IT?

THIS WHOLE SITUATION COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED!
BUT IF ONLY YAMAOKA HAD PUT IN A LITTLE MORE EFFORT...

GOURMET WARRIORS 15

PREVIOUSLY, AS PART OF OUR CENTENARY CELEBRATION, WE RELEASED AN ANNOUNCEMENT...

FORTUNATELY, WE'RE DIVING INTO THE CREATION OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU,' AND IT'S AN EXCITING JOURNEY!

THE CREATION OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' IS NEARING ITS GRAND FINALE, SO I'VE DECIDED TO GRADUALLY UNVEIL IT IN PRINT!

LET'S SWIFTLY SEND OUT ANOTHER ANNOUNCEMENT.

WE'RE LUCKY THAT NO ONE THINKS WE'VE COPIED THE IDEA FROM THEM...

WE'LL KICK OFF JUST AS THEY RELEASE THEIR FIRST ONE.

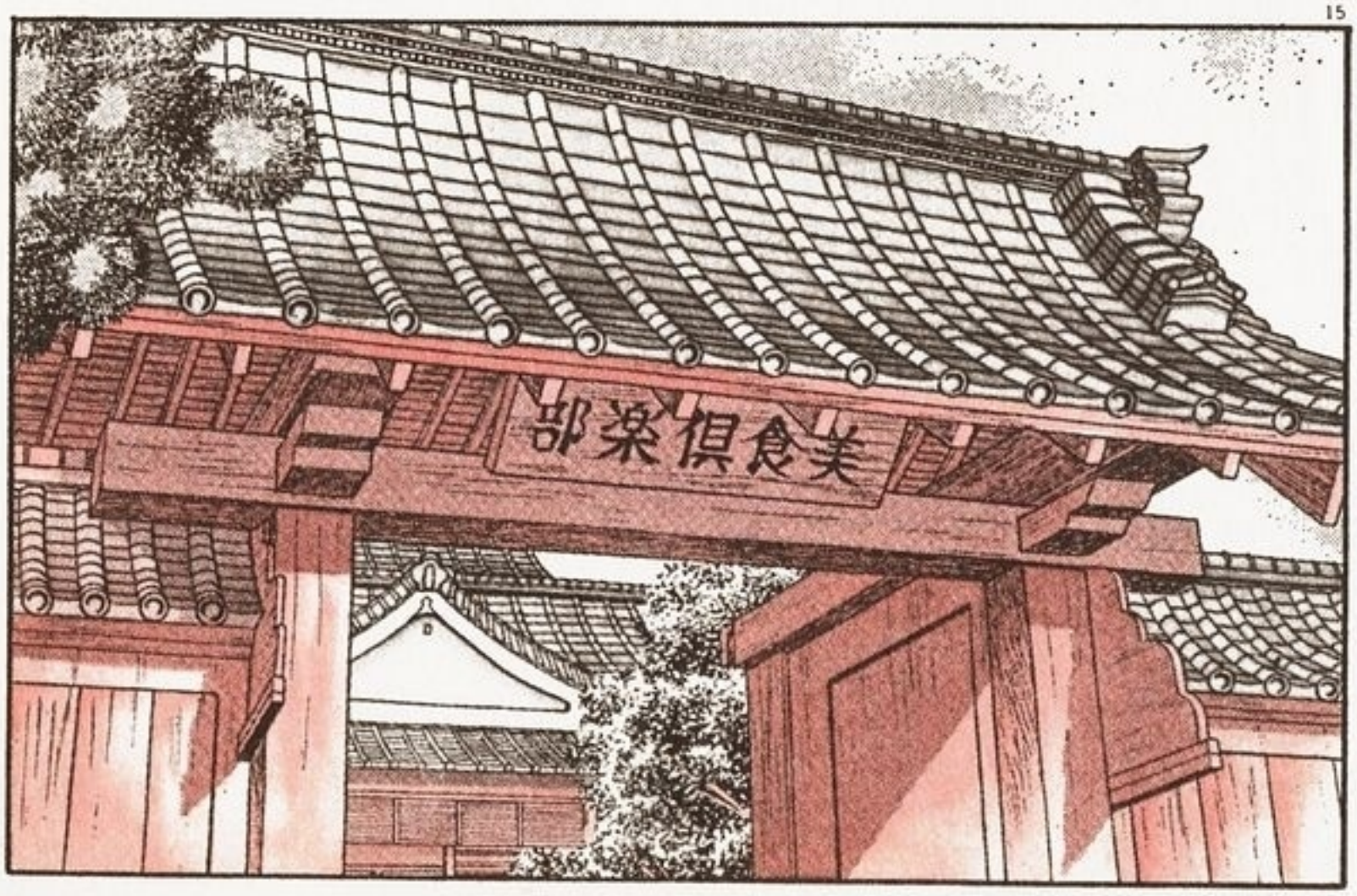
14

IT'S A CLEAR REFLECTION OF THE UNWAVERING DETERMINATION OF THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER, REFUSING TO BOW DOWN TO THE MIGHTY TEITO SHIMBUN.

WOW... IT'S AN ALL-OUT SHOWDOWN!

THE PUBLICATION WILL SHOWCASE A VIBRANT TWO-PAGE SPREAD IN THE SUNDAY EDITION EVERY MONTH.

GOURMET WARRIORS 15



HIIRANO NORIAKI, CHIEF OF THE ARTS SECTION AT TEITO NEWSPAPER, AGE 50.

MINEYAMA TOMOKAZU, PRESIDENT OF TEITO NEWSPAPER, AGE 60.

AT THE RESIDENCE OF HIDESAWA TAMIO, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE TEITO NEWSPAPER.

東西新聞

WE'RE LAUNCHING AT THE SAME TIME AS THEM, STARTING FROM THE SECOND WEEK OF NEXT MONTH!

THEY'VE DECLARED WAR ON US!

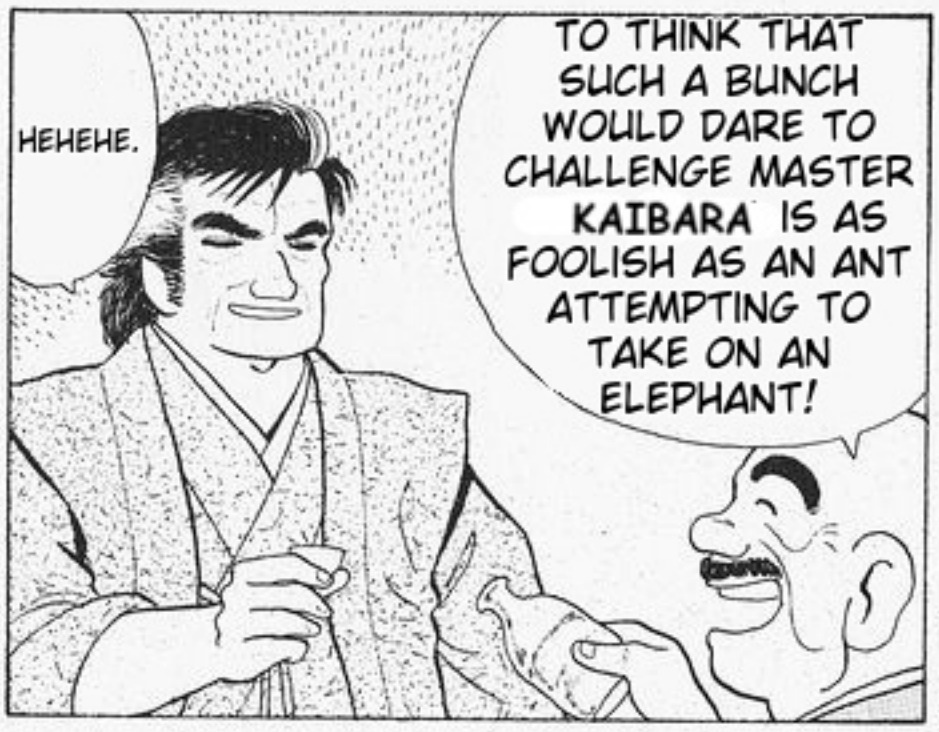
GOODNESS, THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER IS REALLY PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS!

THEY CALL IT THE 'ULTIMATE MENU,' BUT I'M CURIOUS WHAT KINDS OF DISHES WILL ACTUALLY MAKE AN APPEARANCE...

JUST A CLUELESS YOUNG PUP WHO KNOWS LITTLE ABOUT FOOD!

HA HA HA, I KNOW THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AT TOZAI NEWSPAPER QUITE WELL.

GOURMET WARRIORS 15



17

HEY, RYOZO, COME OVER HERE!

YES, PROFESSOR, DID YOU CALL FOR ME?

I TRUST YOU'LL DO WELL.

WELL, HOW DELIGHTFUL TO SEE SUCH TRUST FROM THE ESTEEMED PROFESSOR KAIBARA IN SOMEONE SO YOUNG!

I'M ENTRUSTING THE COOKING FOR THE JAPANESE CUISINE SECTION OF THE 'SUPREME MENU' TO THIS GENTLEMAN.

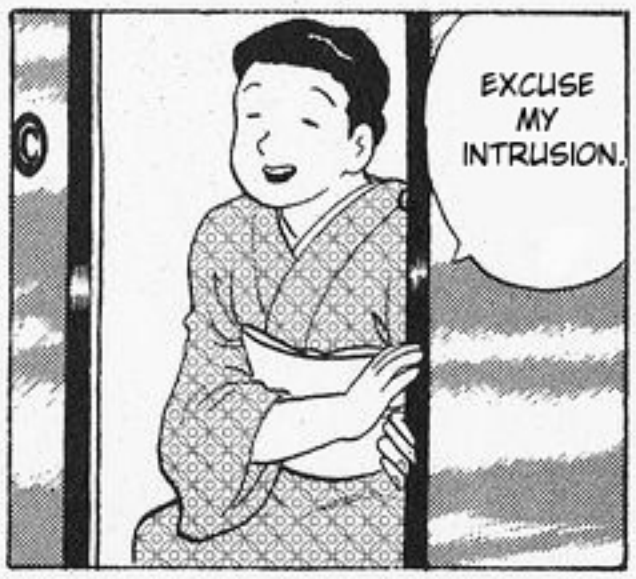
THIS IS ONE OF MY CHEFS, RYOZO OKABOSHI.

YES, I'LL DO MY UTMOST!

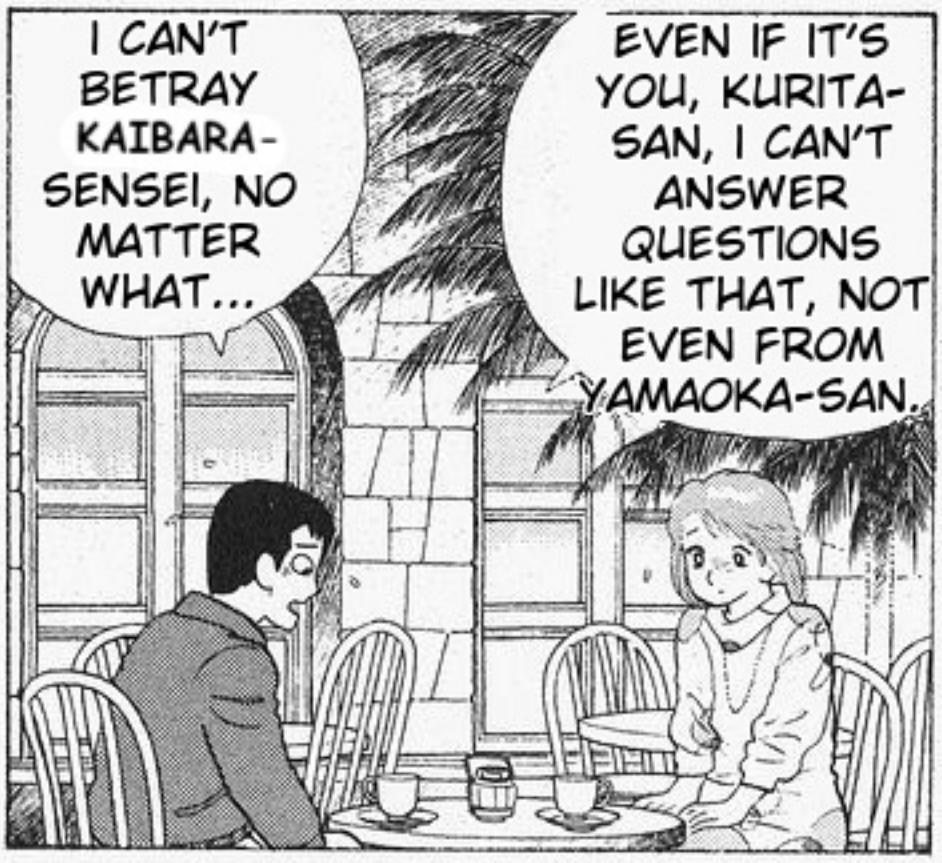
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

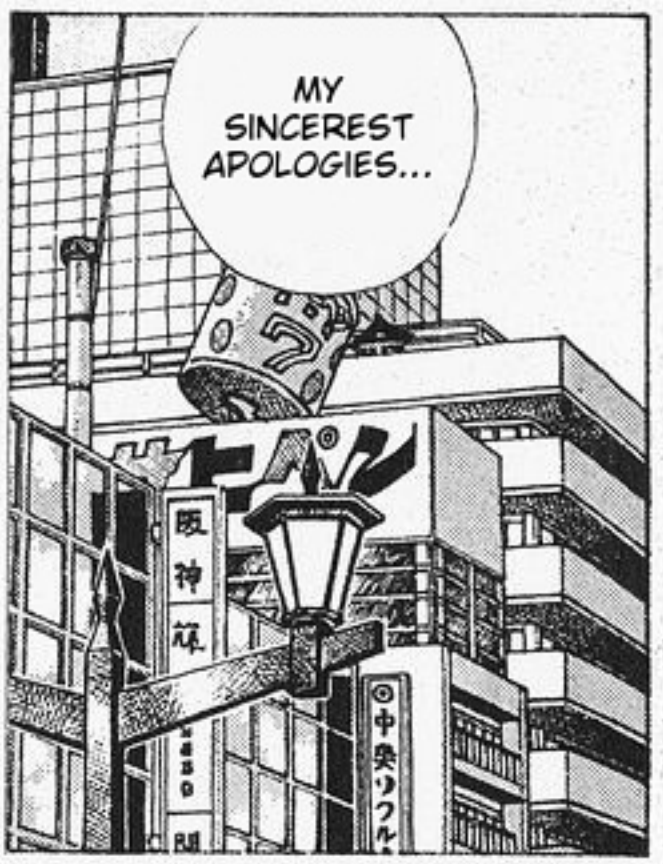
OH? UH, YES...

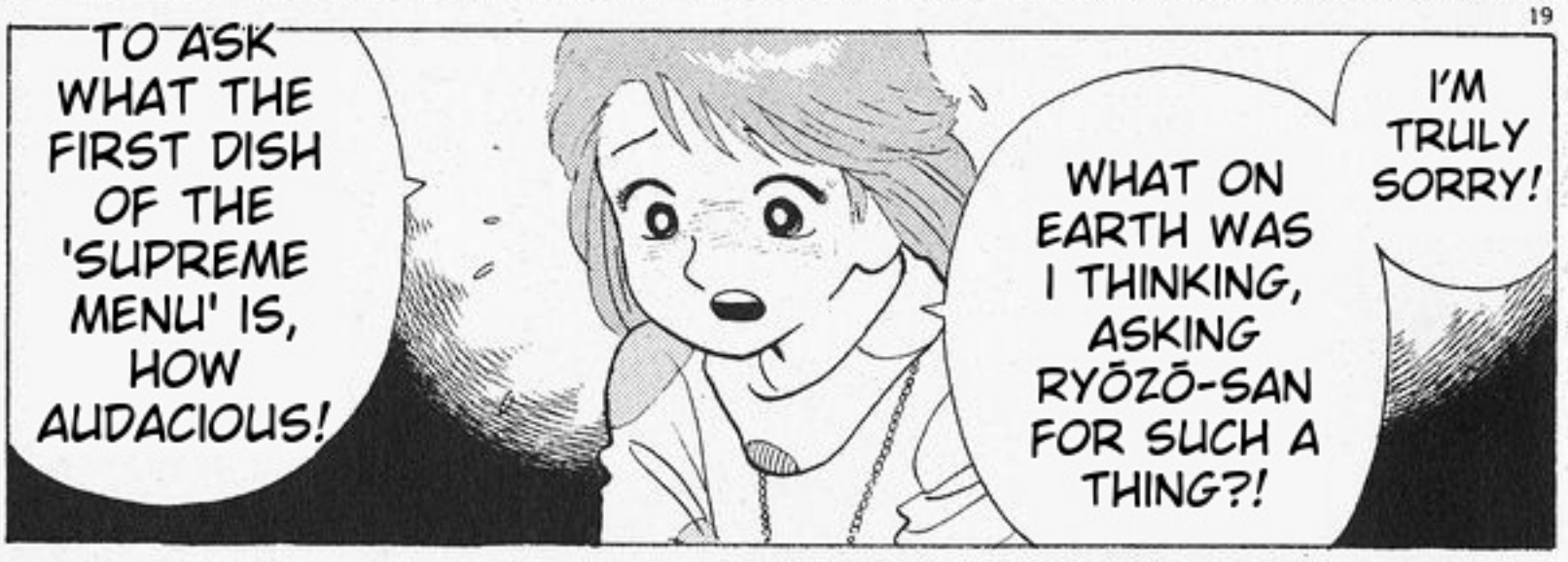
MR. OKABOSHI, THERE'S A CALL FOR YOU FROM A LADY NAMED KURITA.



GOURMET WARRIORS 15







I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE APOLOGIZING...

BUT WHEN HE HEARS ABOUT THIS, HE'LL BE FURIOUS...

I JUST WANTED TO HELP YAMAOKA-SAN...

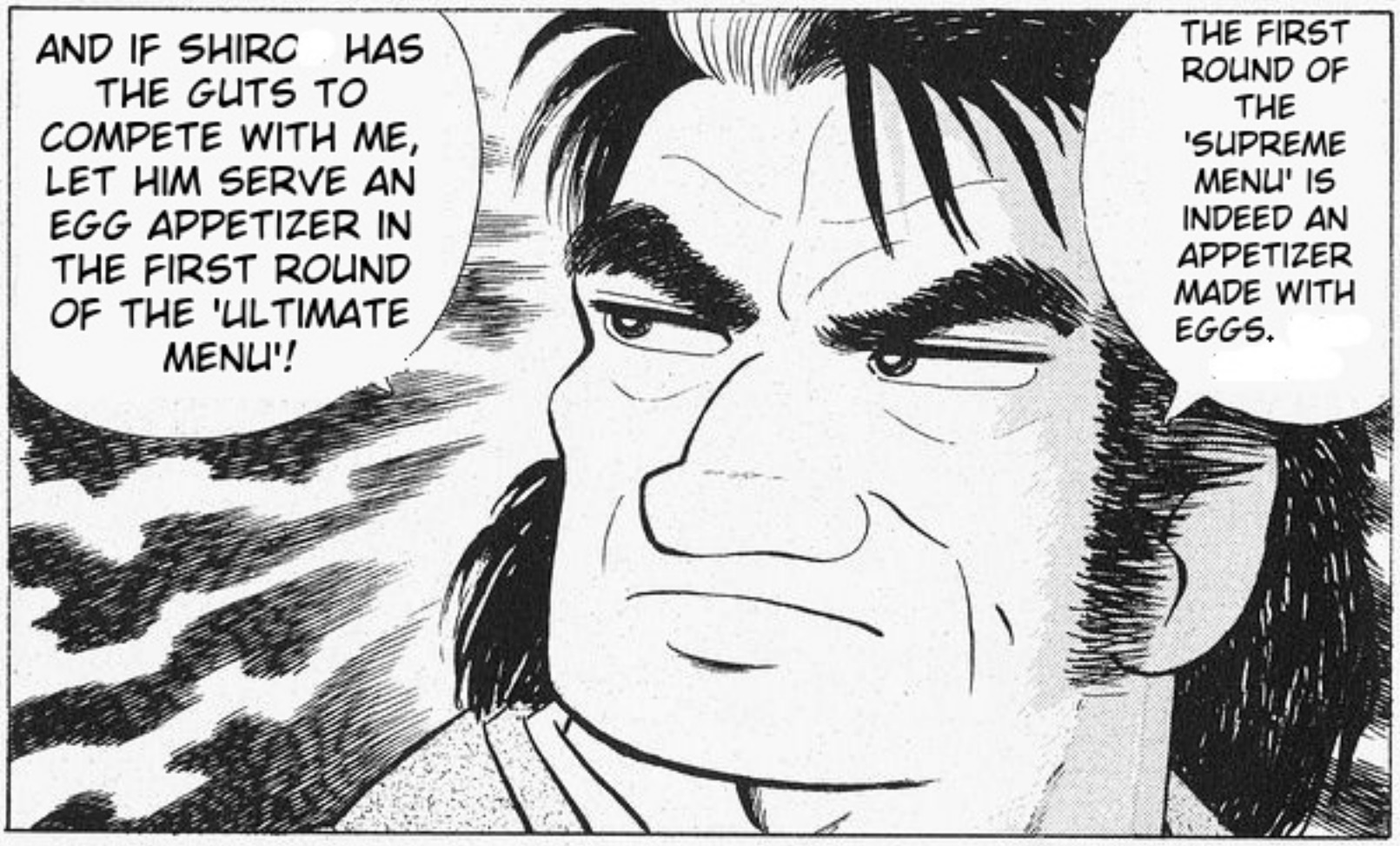
I'M SO SORRY...

20

OH LOOK, THE TEACHER IS CALLING FOR YOU.

HUH?

RYOZO, TELL THAT GIRL KURITA FOR ME.


AND IF SHIRO HAS THE GUTS TO COMPETE WITH ME, LET HIM SERVE AN EGG APPETIZER IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'!
THE FIRST ROUND OF THE 'SUPREME MENU' IS INDEED AN APPETIZER MADE WITH EGGS.

SHIRO MUST REALLY BE LACKING IN CONFIDENCE IF HE'S TRYING TO PROBE MY SECRETS THROUGH YOU!
ABSOLUTELY NOT! SHIRO WOULD NEVER STOOP TO SUCH A THING!

AH, UGH...!!

Y-YES, I UNDERSTAND...

LISTEN UP, RYOZO, MAKE SURE YOU GET THE MESSAGE TO SHIRO LOUD AND CLEAR.

PLEASE, YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME!

AND I SWEAR, I WILL NEVER BETRAY MY MASTER, EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE!

I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T BETRAY ME, RYOZO.

I KNOW IT ALL TOO WELL...

岡星

HMM...

AN APPETIZER OF EGGS, IS IT...

YES, RYOZO SAID TO CONVEY THAT...

WHAT?! YOU WANT ME TO BATTLE WITH AN EGG APPETIZER?!!

SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN?
LET'S DO THIS AND GIVE IT OUR ALL!!
TELL KAIBARA THAT I'M READY TO TAKE ON THAT CHALLENGE!!

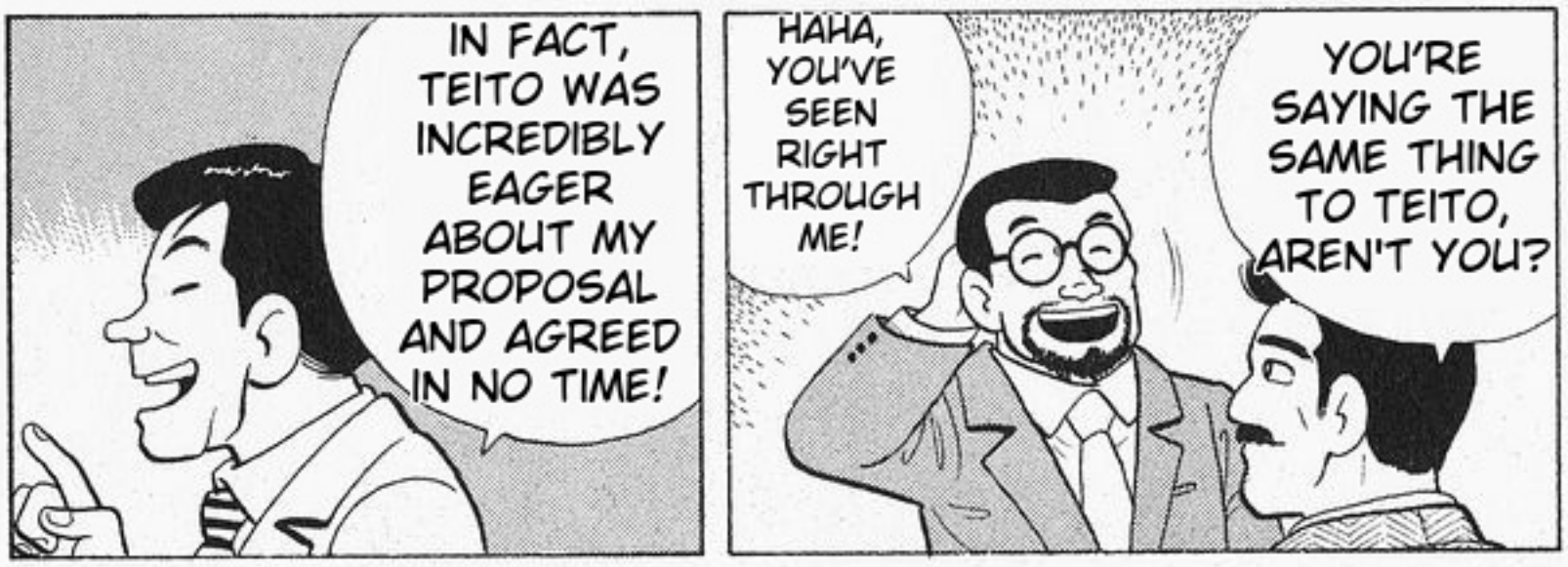
第1話

究極VS至高

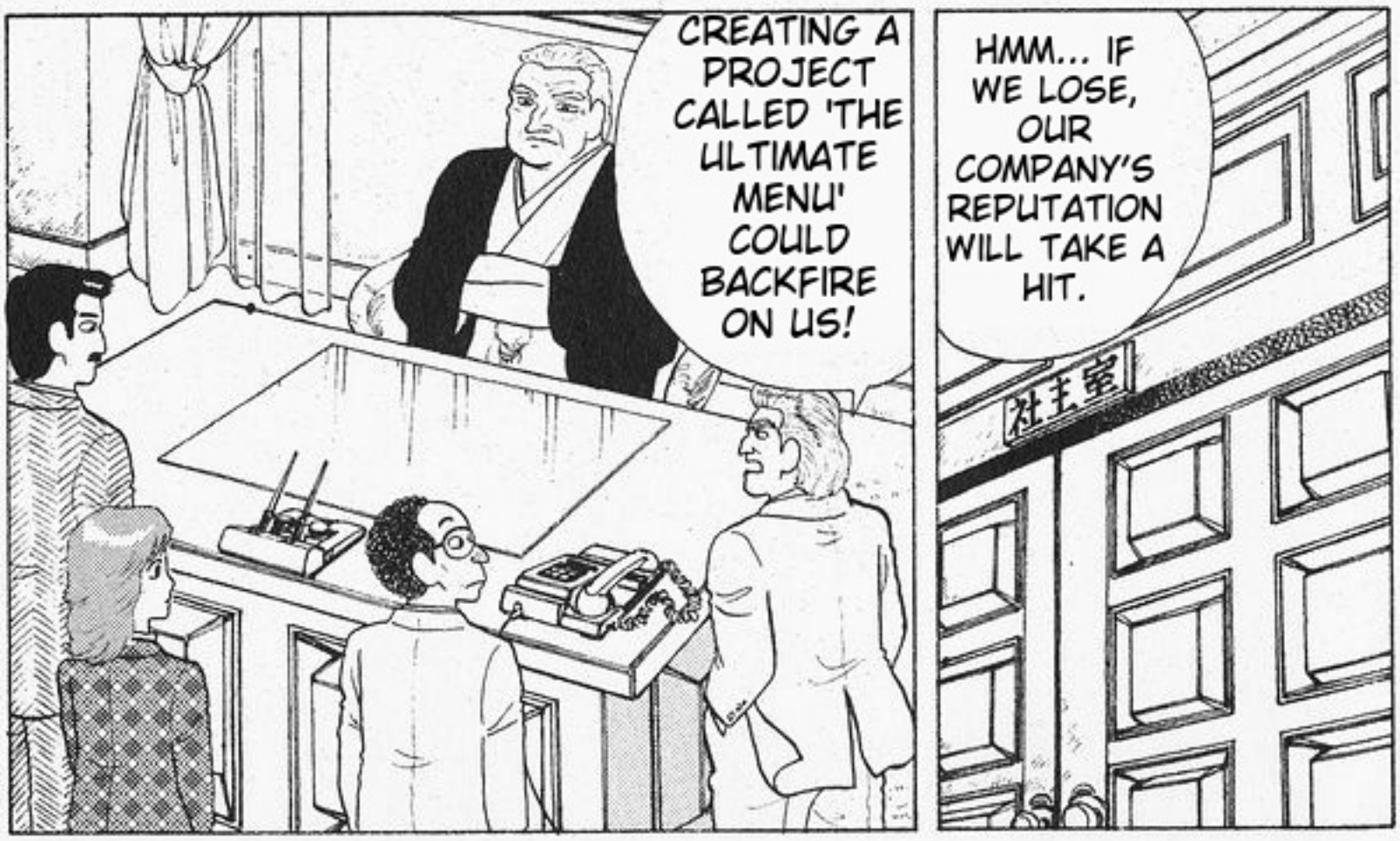
〈中編〉

週刊タイム
編集長
三河元良
少学館
101東京都千代田区一ツ橋二
電話東京（二三〇）五五
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
YOU WANT TO PIT THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AGAINST THE 'SUPREME MENU' IN YOUR MAGAZINE, DO YOU?!
YES. AFTER HEARING ABOUT BOTH PAPERS' PROJECTS,
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE READY TO GO HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AND THE 'SUPREME MENU'!
BUT WHAT GOOD IS IT JUST TO PRINT THE MENUS?
ISN'T IT ONLY NATURAL TO WANT TO COMPARE WHICH MENU IS MORE DELICIOUS?
SO, WE'LL WHIP UP BOTH MENUS,
WE'LL PICK SOME JUDGES TO TASTE THEM AND SEE WHO REIGNS SUPREME!
IF YOU'RE CONFIDENT IN THE 'ULTIMATE MENU',
WHY NOT OVERWHELM THE 'SUPREME MENU' AND SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN THE CIRCULATION BATTLE WITH TEITO NEWS?

DELICIOUS!


IN FACT, TEITO WAS INCREDIBLY EAGER ABOUT MY PROPOSAL AND AGREED IN NO TIME!
HAHA, YOU'VE SEEN RIGHT THROUGH ME!
YOU'RE SAYING THE SAME THING TO TEITO, AREN'T YOU?
HMM...
WAIT! HAS TEITO ALREADY AGREED TO THIS?!
SO WE THOUGHT THAT TOZAI WOULD JUMP AT THIS AS WELL!
INDEED, TEITO IS BURSTING WITH CONFIDENCE.

3


CREATING A PROJECT CALLED 'THE ULTIMATE MENU' COULD BACKFIRE ON US!
HMM... IF WE LOSE, OUR COMPANY'S REPUTATION WILL TAKE A HIT.
社主室

YES, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BACK DOWN NOW.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?

CAN WE REALLY WIN? OUR OPPONENT IS THE LEGENDARY KAIBARA YUZAN!

BOSS!!

HMM...

IF WE RETREAT WITHOUT A FIGHT, WE'LL STILL BE LOSING A CENTURY FROM NOW.

WE'RE TRYING TO OUTDO TEITO NEWS.

AFTER THEY ANNOUNCED THE 'SUPREME MENU,' WE DECIDED TO UNVEIL OUR 'ULTIMATE MENU' IN RESPONSE...

YES.

I'M READY TO TAKE ON THE WEEKLY TIME'S PROJECT!

UNDERSTOOD.

OH, YES...

WHAT HAPPENED TO YAMAOKA?

DELICIOUS!

SO HE LAID DOWN THE CHALLENGE?!

FOR THIS INAUGURAL ROUND, IT WAS SUGGESTED BY THE ESTEEMED **KAIBARA YUZAN** THAT WE TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE OF AN EGG-BASED APPETIZER.

AND I'M OFF TO GATHER THE INGREDIENTS FOR CRAFTING THAT EGG-INSPIRED APPETIZER.

TODAY MARKS THE VERY FIRST PRESENTATION,

WHAT? AN EGG-BASED APPETIZER!?

HMM... I'M STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE ANXIOUS.

YAMAOKA!

YAMAOKA-SAN!

I HEARD EVERYONE WAS GATHERING HERE, SO...

UPON RETURNING TO THE DEPARTMENT, I'VE BEEN HEARING WHISPERS ABOUT SOMETHING CALLED THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AND THE 'SUPREME MENU,'

OH, HEY THERE!

HEHE... CURIOUS, ARE WE?

WHAT ARE YOU HIDING THERE?

AH, TRUFFLES, INDEED.

WELL, WELL,

HMM.....

IC

WHOA, IS THAT...!?

DIDN'T YOU HAVE A LITTLE SPAT WITH THE OWNER OF A FRENCH NEWSPAPER WHEN HE VISITED JAPAN?

I JUST CAN'T WRAP MY HEAD AROUND WHAT MAKES TRUFFLES SO SPECIAL.

TAKE A WHIFF OF THIS.

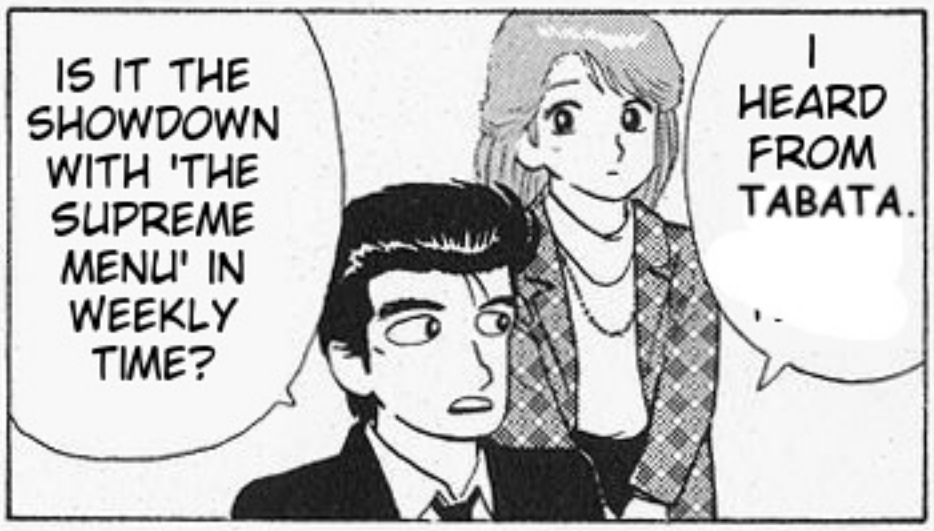
REMEMBER WHEN MR. OOHARA SAID HE COULDN'T DETECT ANY HINT OF TRUFFLE AROMA AT ALL?

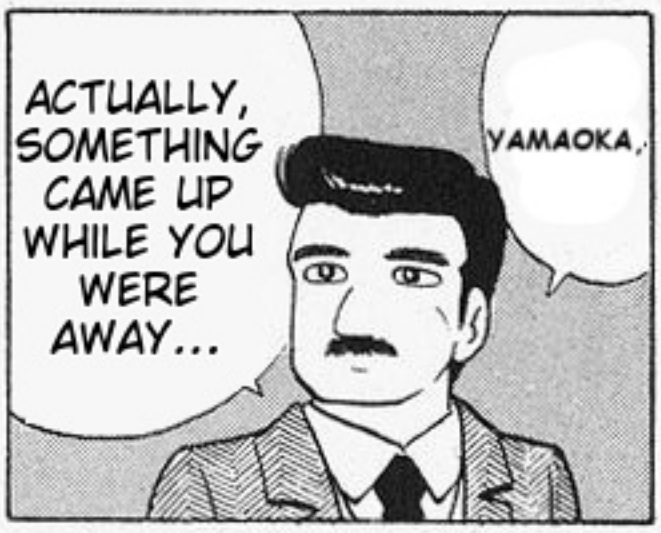
DELICIOUS!

IT JUST ARRIVED BY AIR FREIGHT FROM FRANCE A MOMENT AGO.
IT'S THE FINEST TRUFFLE, PERFECTLY PRESERVED.

WHAT A STRIKING AROMA!
WOW, I CAN SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING. IT HAS A SHARP, ACETYLENE-LIKE AROMA THAT JUST HITS THE NOSE...

HEHEHE, JUST WAIT AND SEE.
WHAT KIND OF EGG APPETIZER ARE YOU PLANNING TO WHIP UP?

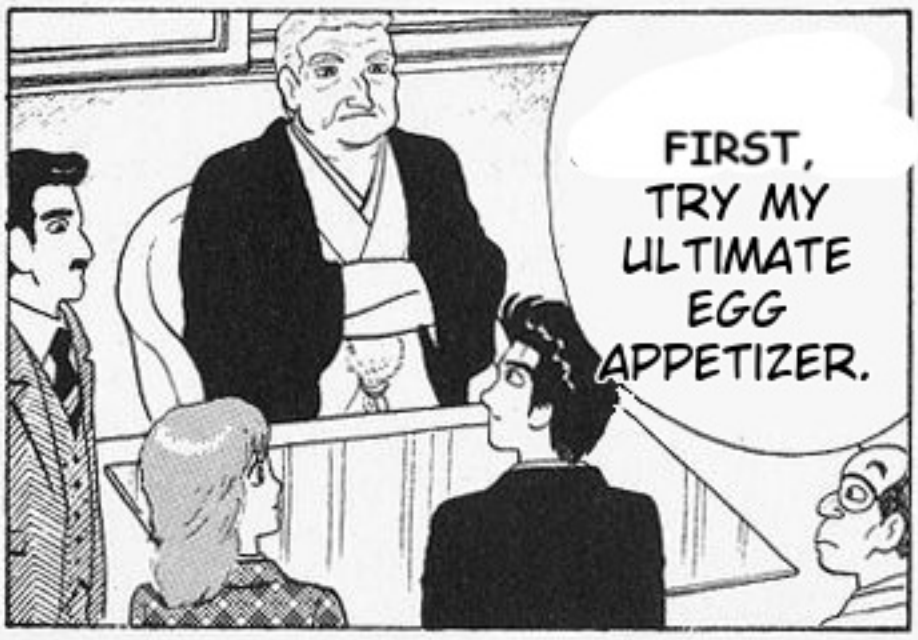

IS IT THE SHOWDOWN WITH 'THE SUPREME MENU' IN WEEKLY TIME?
I HEARD FROM TABATA.


ACTUALLY, SOMETHING CAME UP WHILE YOU WERE AWAY...
YAMAOKA.

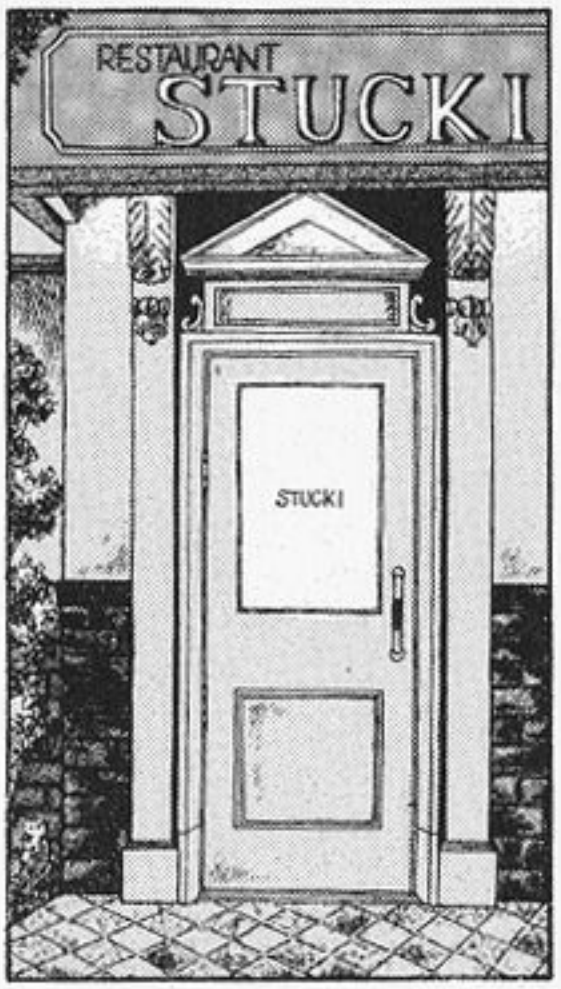
7

BUT YAMAKA, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

I CAN'T LET KAIBARA YUZAN SEE ME FALTER.
LET'S DO THIS.


FIRST, TRY MY ULTIMATE EGG APPETIZER.

OH DEAR... TO THINK THAT THE RIVALRY BETWEEN YUZAN AND SHIRŌ HAS DRAWN IN TWO MAJOR NEWSPAPERS.



JUST TASTE THE FOOD WITHOUT BLABBERING ON ABOUT UNNECESSARY THINGS!

WHAT A TROUBLESOME PAIR THEY ARE.

8

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT DISH WILL BE SERVED AS PART OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'!!

HERE COMES THE CHOW!

DELICIOUS!

.....

THIS IS THE APPETIZER FOR THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'?!

WHY ON EARTH IS A BOILED EGG THE APPETIZER FOR THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'?!

YAMAOKA!!

THIS IS JUST A PLAIN BOILED EGG, ISN'T IT?!

JUST WAIT AND SEE! THIS SIMPLE BOILED EGG WILL TRANSFORM INTO THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' IN A FLASH!

DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING.

JUST ADD SAUCE LIBERALLY AND SCOOP IT UP ONE SPOONFUL AT A TIME.

I'VE MIXED THE YOLK AND WHITE TOGETHER,

IT'S PITCH BLACK AND OOEY-GOOEY!

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THIS?

NOW, POUR THIS SPECIAL SAUCE INTO THE EGG THROUGH THE LITTLE HOLE AT THE TOP.

THE EGGS ARE LIGHTLY BOILED, JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP THE YOLKS AND WHITES FROM SOLIDIFYING.

WHOA, WHOA, BEFORE WE START GUESSING, LET'S DIVE IN AND TASTE IT FIRST...

TRUFFLE!

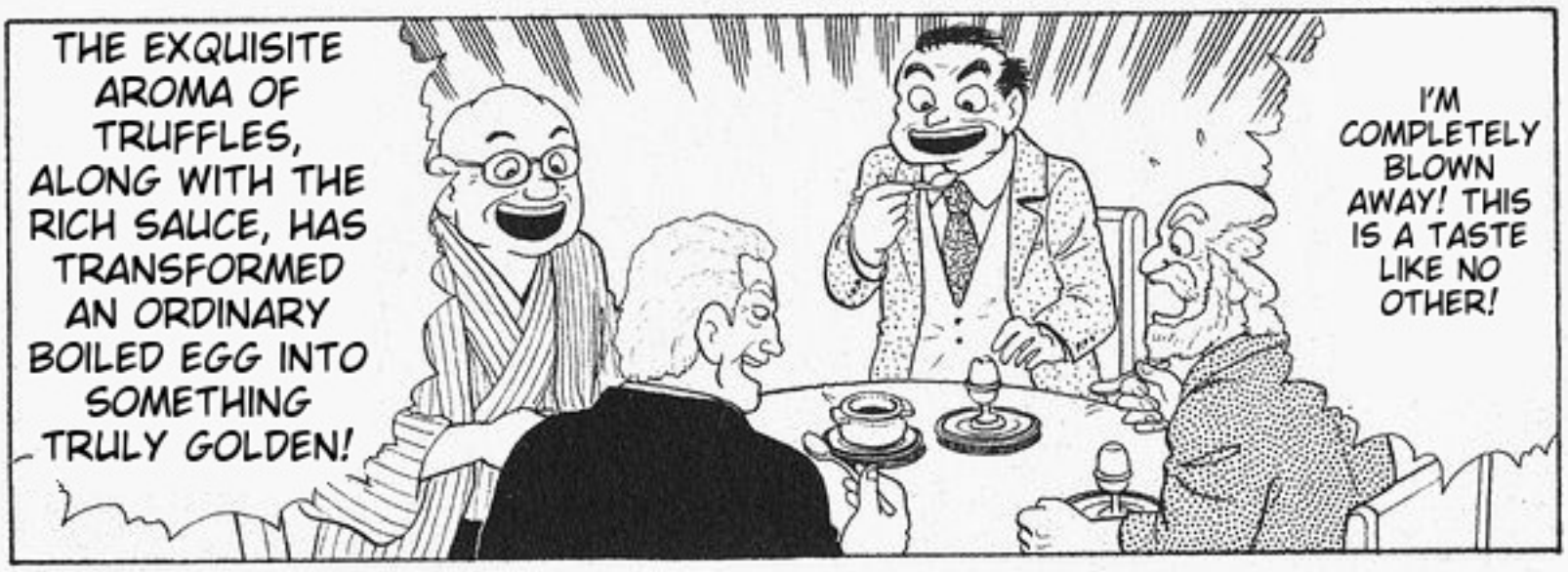
OH, THIS SAUCE!

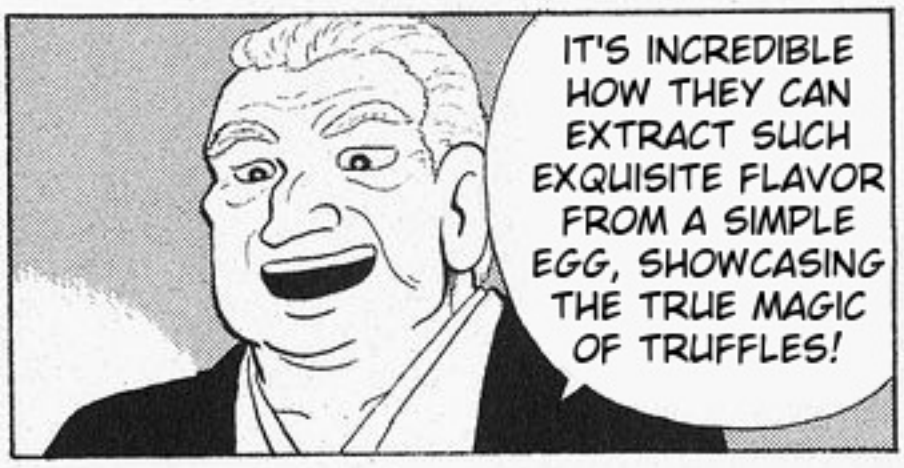
THIS MUST BE TRUFFLE!

10

WHOA... THIS IS...!!

DELICIOUS!





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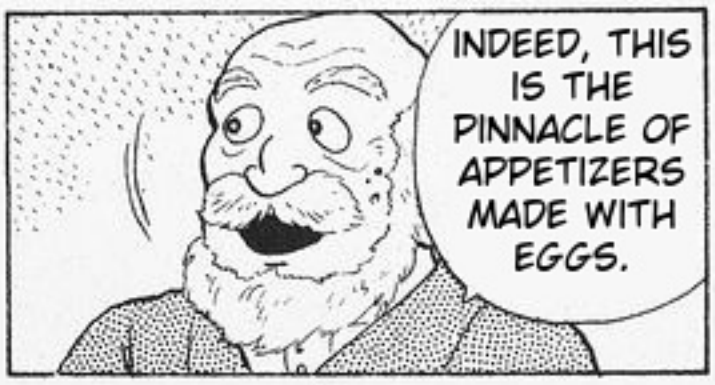
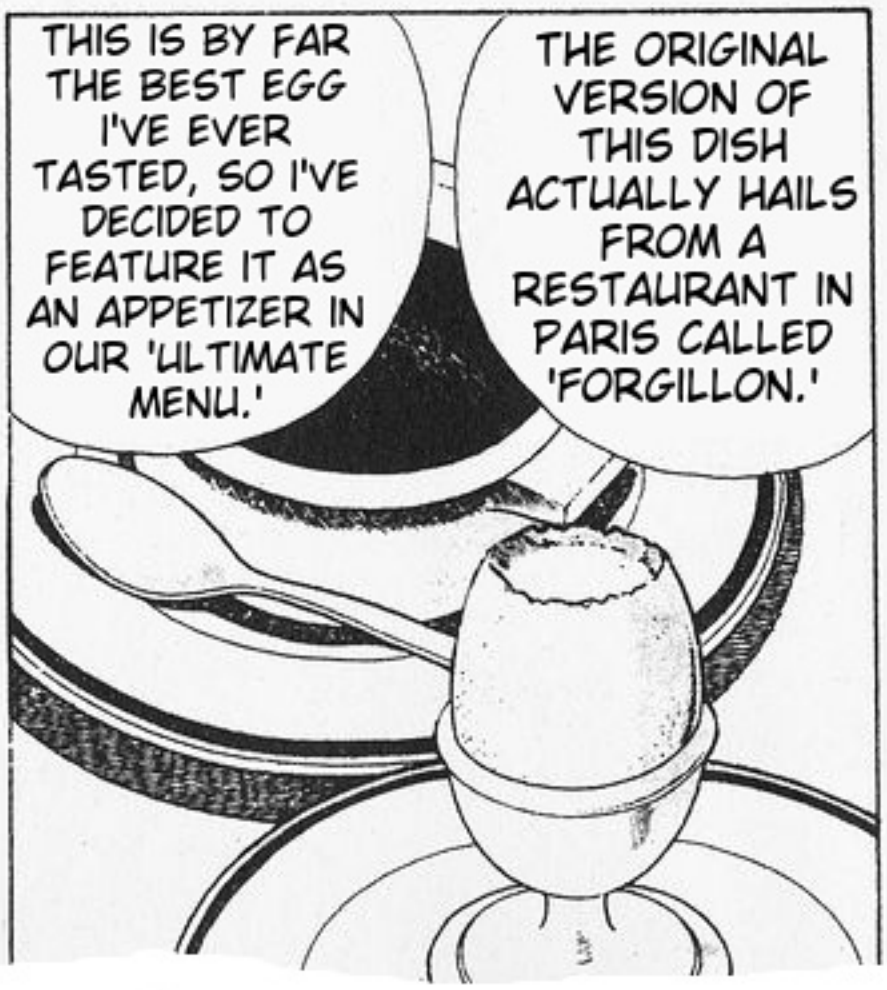




EVEN IF IT'S NOT PERFECT, AT LEAST IT'LL BE A DRAW; WE SURELY WON'T LOSE TO THE 'SUPREME MENU'!

ABSOLUTELY, WHEN IT COMES TO USING EGGS, I CAN HARDLY IMAGINE ANYTHING TASTIER!

AS SKILLED AS KAIBARA YUZAN IS, SURPASSING THIS DISH WILL BE NO EASY FEAT!

YAMAOKA-KUN, I TRULY FEEL REASSURED.

YAMAOKA-KUN, YOU'VE DONE A SPLENDID JOB!

IF KYOGOKU-SAN GIVES HIS STAMP OF APPROVAL, THEN WE CAN REST EASY!

I'LL GATHER THE TOYAMA PORCELAIN PIECES OVER HERE.

OF COURSE, THAT'S ALL PART OF THE PLAN.

WHEN I SERVE IT IN MY EXQUISITE DISH, THE FLAVOR SEEMS TO BLOSSOM TWO OR THREE TIMES MORE DELICIOUS!

AH, BUT YOU KNOW, THERE'S ALWAYS THE CHANCE THAT YUZAN MIGHT USE HIS OWN FANTASTIC CREATIONS!

12

OH, I SEE! YOU'RE SCARED OF LOSING TO YOUR OWN DISCIPLE, AREN'T YOU?!

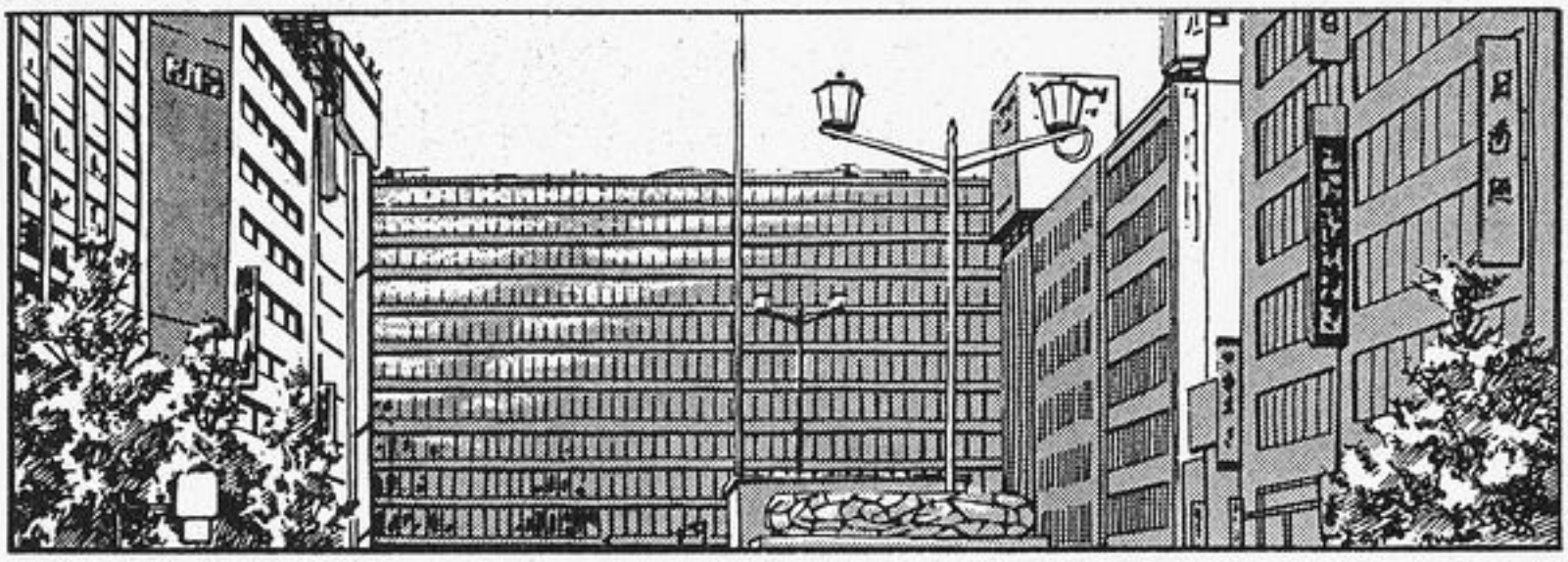
W-WHAT! SHIRO! HOW DARE YOU...

OH, DO YOU REALLY HAVE THAT MANY OF MY DISHES?

JUST MAKE SURE TO WHIP UP ANY MISSING DISHES QUICKLY, ALRIGHT?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THEY'RE ALL TUCKED AWAY IN YOUR STOREROOM!

DELICIOUS!



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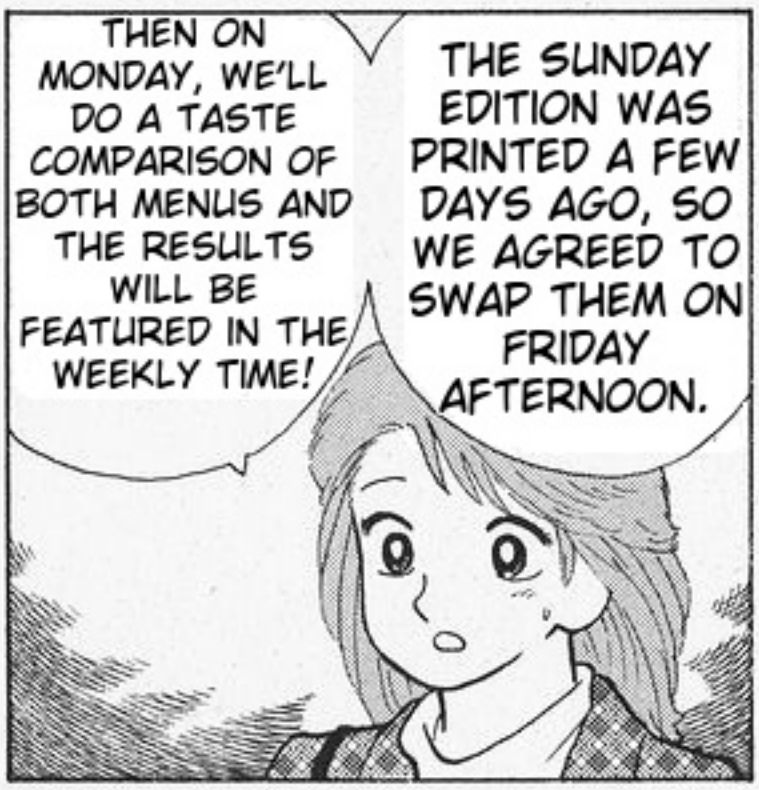
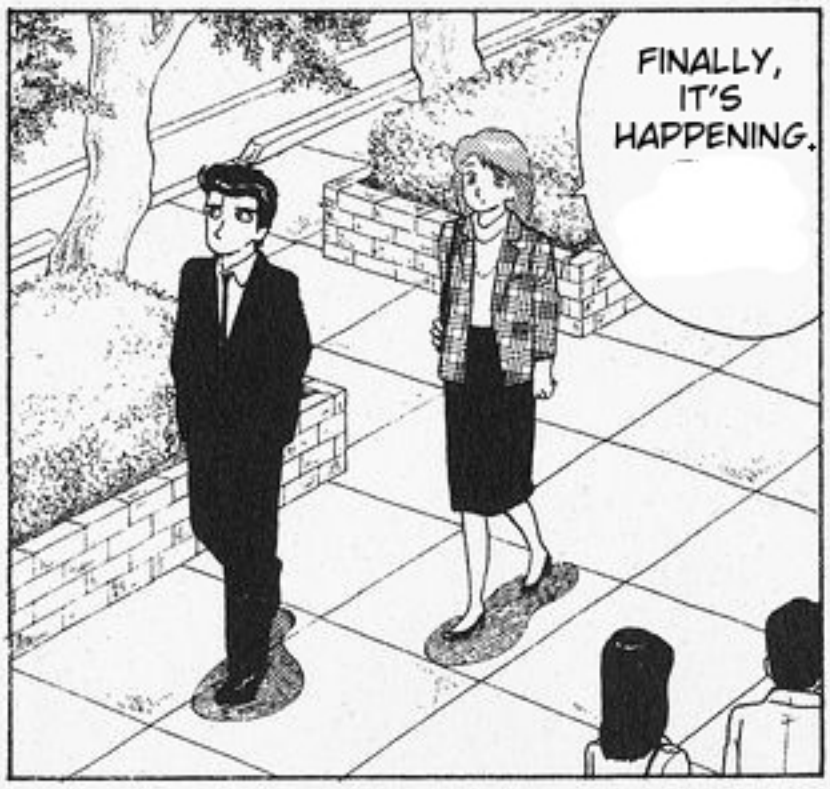
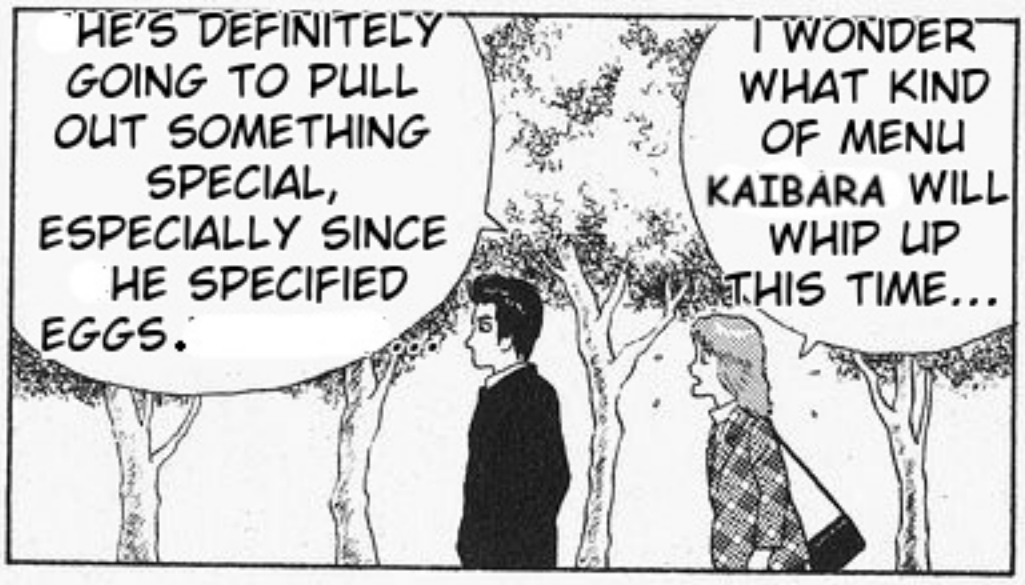
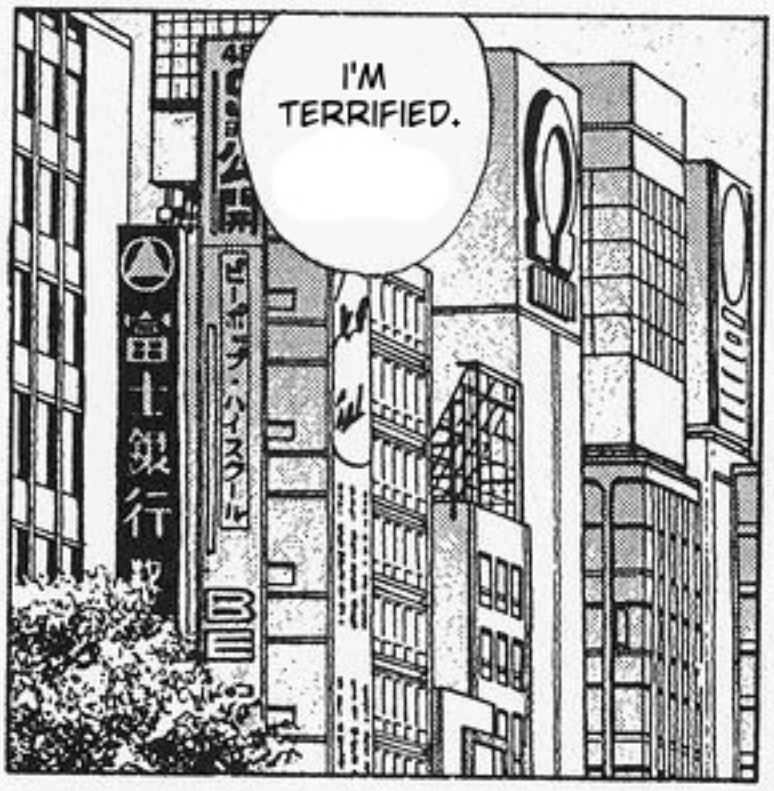




HMPH...


HE'S DEFINITELY GOING TO PULL OUT SOMETHING SPECIAL, ESPECIALLY SINCE HE SPECIFIED EGGS.
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF MENU KAIBARA WILL WHIP UP THIS TIME...

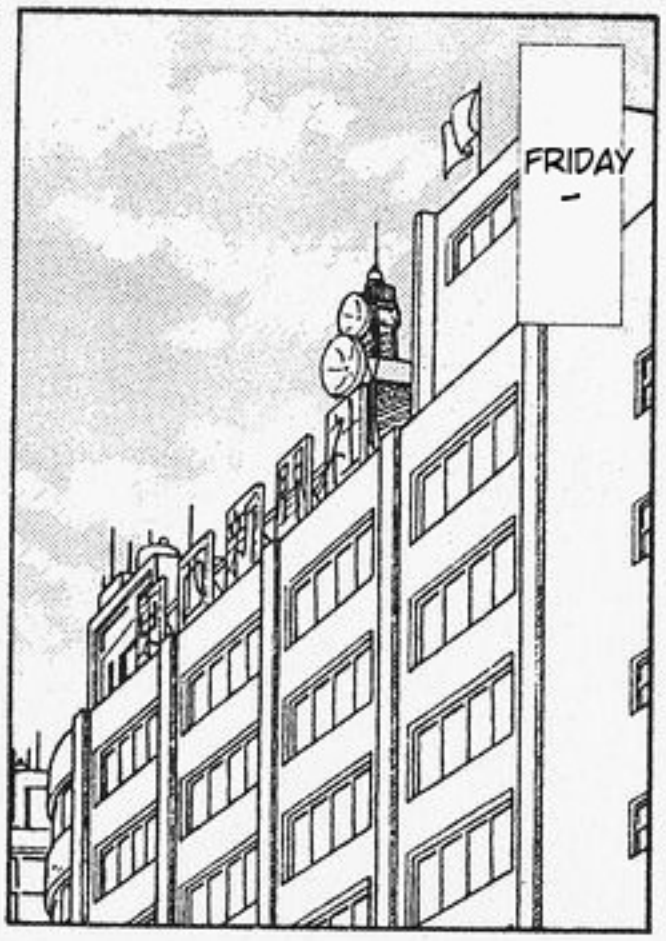

I'M TERRIFIED.
富士銀行

WE CAN'T TAKE OUR SWEET TIME LIKE WE USED TO WHEN CRAFTING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU.'
OH DEAR, WHEN THE CIRCULATION NUMBERS ARE INVOLVED, IT GETS SERIOUS.

FORGET TAKING IT EASY; EVEN MANAGER TANIMURA'S EYES HAVE TURNED FIERCE.

14

COME TO THE PUBLISHER'S OFFICE.
YAMAOKA, KURITA, THE SUNDAY EDITION FROM TEITO NEWS HAS ARRIVED.


FRIDAY
—

DELICIOUS!

ADMIN ROOM
YES!
.....
.....

至高のメニュー
卵の黄身の味噌づけ
【作り方】
CAN WE KEEP GOING? ... OH, THIS FEELS SO GOOD-

OH LOOK, THERE'S A RECIPE WRITTEN DOWN HERE.

HOW SURPRISING INDEED...

THIS IS KAIBARA'S SUPREME EGG APPETIZER? SURELY NOT.

WHA... WHAT A REVELATION...

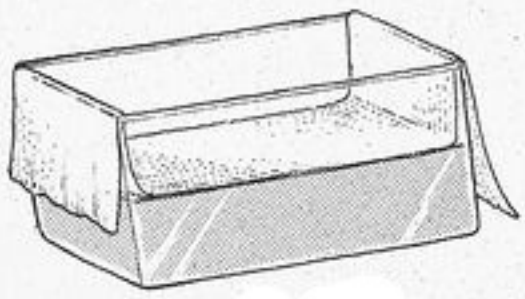
THE MISO-MARINATED EGG YOLK IS QUITE THE UNEXPECTED TWIST.

HUH... THEY SAY IT'S BEST TO EAT IT AROUND THE THIRD DAY AFTER MARINATING...

COMPARED TO YAMAOKA'S EXQUISITE TRUFFLE SAUCE BOILED EGGS, THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN A COMMON DISH.

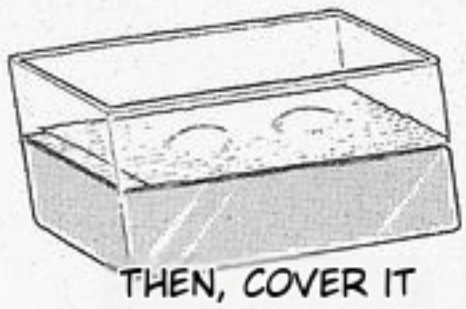
BUT REALLY, THIS ISN'T ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

作り方



PLACE GAUZE ON TOP OF THE MISO.

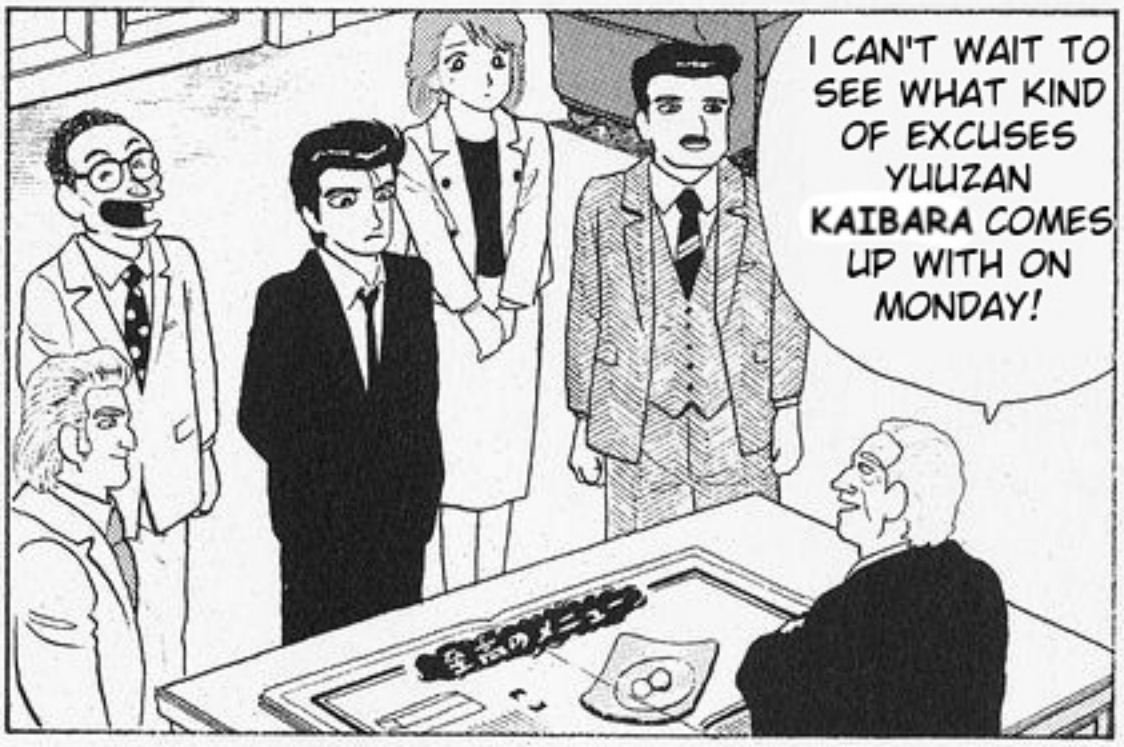
PRESS DOWN THE GAUZE AND PLACE THE YOLK INTO THE HOLLOW.

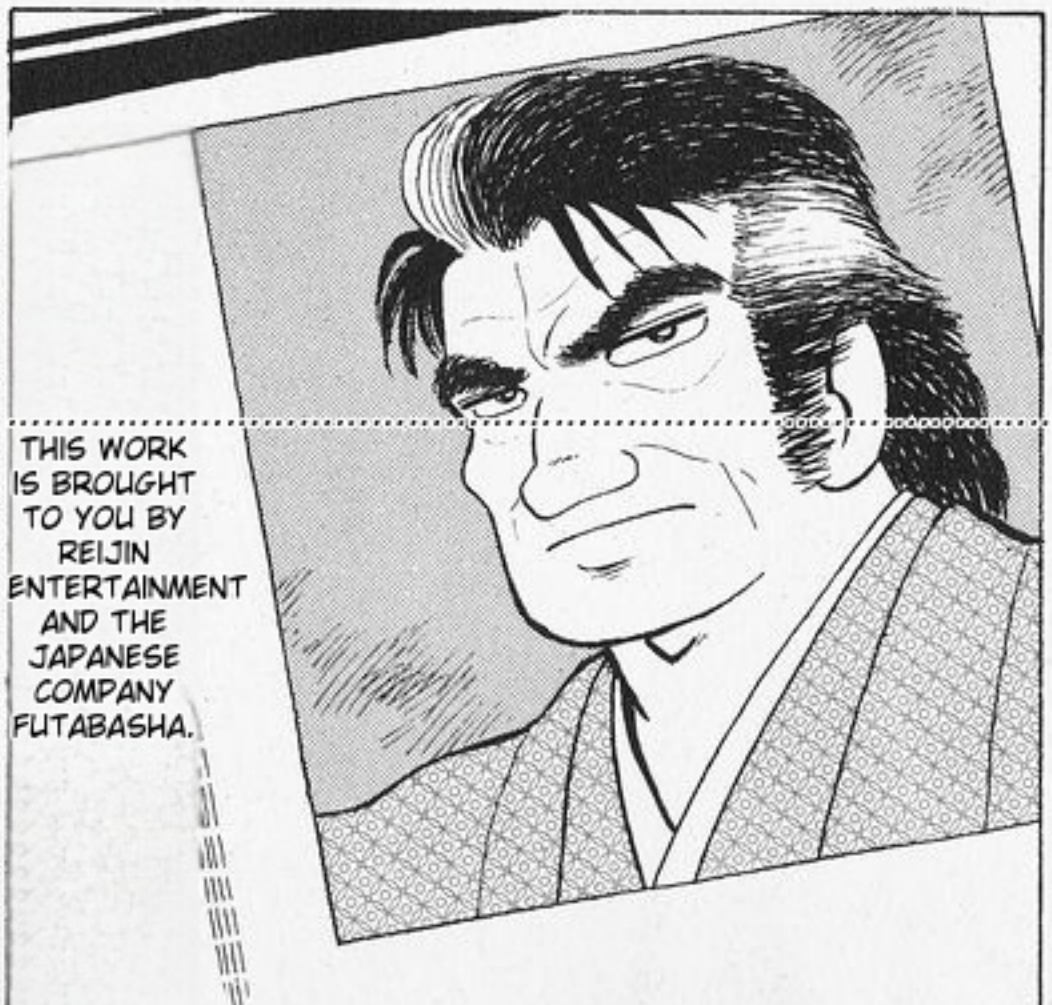


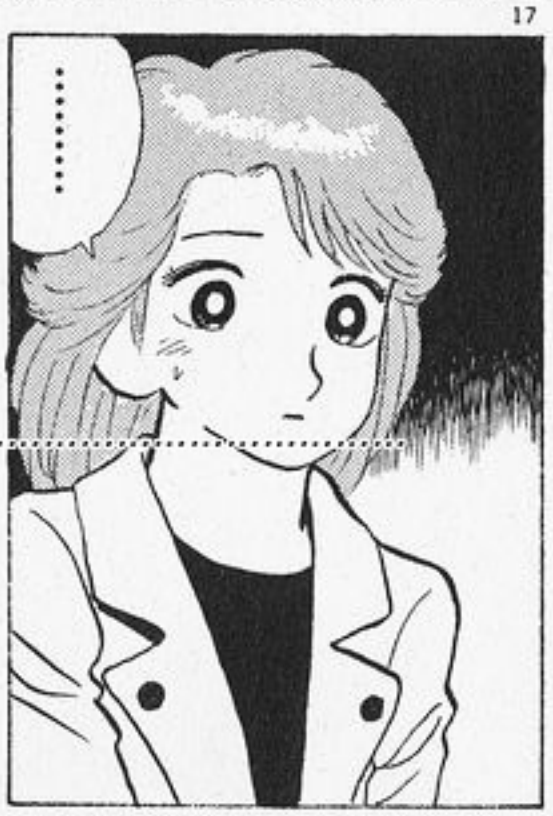
THEN, COVER IT WITH GAUZE AND ADD EVEN MORE MISO ON TOP.

IT'S BEST TO ENJOY IT AROUND THE THIRD DAY OF MARINATION.

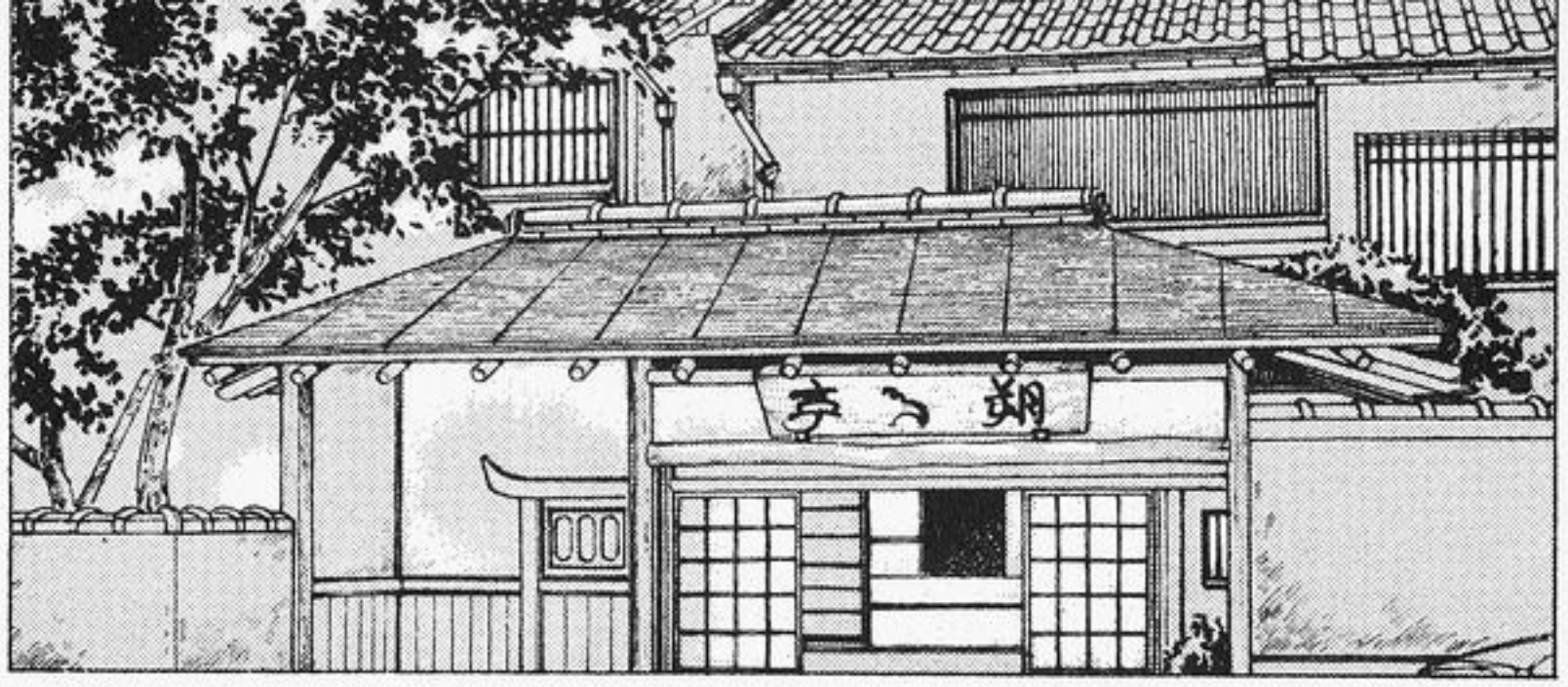
DELICIOUS!







*TL NOTE: THE MOST INFURIATING THING I DEAL WITH IN USING A MACHINE TRANSLATION IS THE ELIPSES RUINING PANELS AND I CAN'T FIX THEM WITHOUT MAKING IT WORSE...



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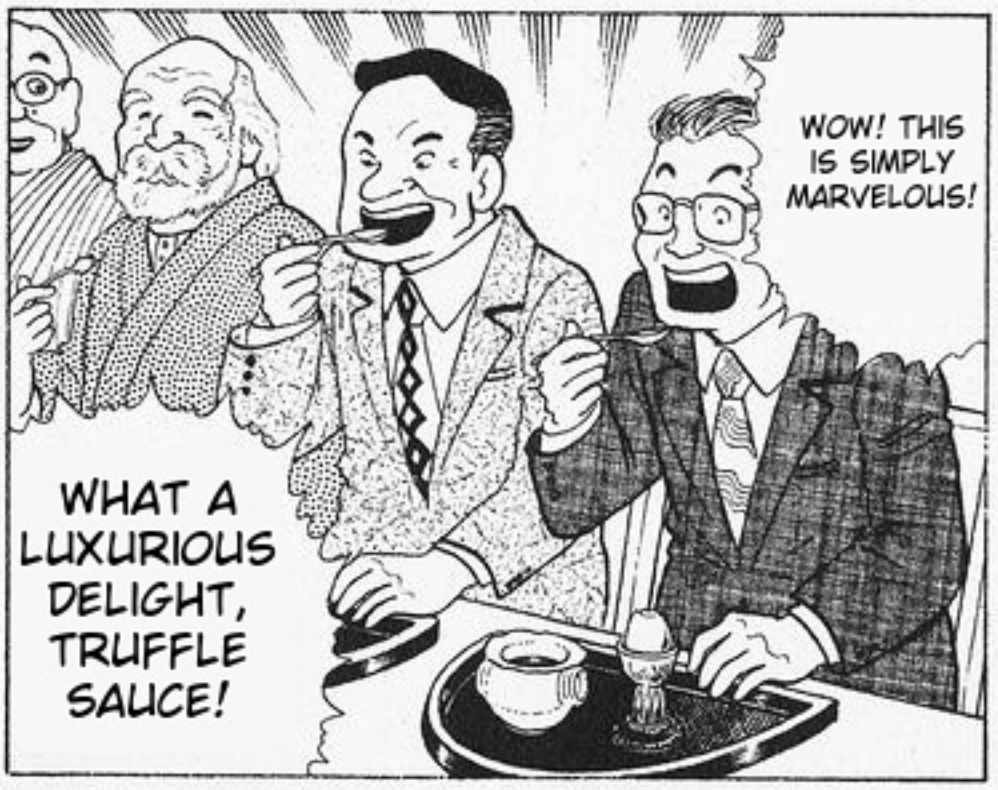
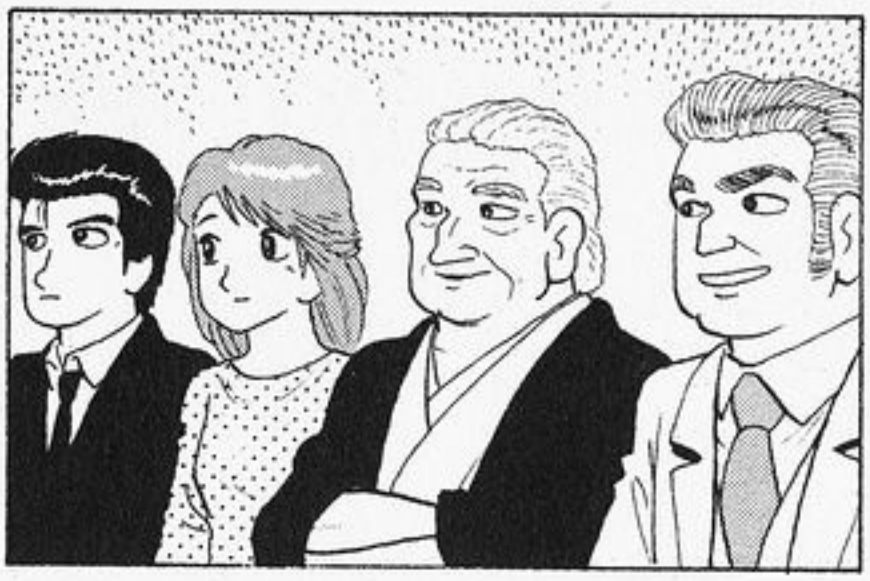
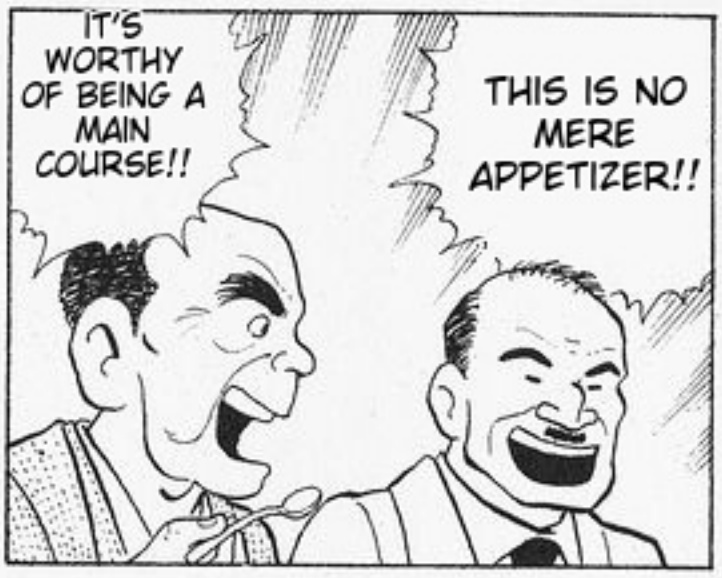

WOW! THIS IS SIMPLY MARVELOUS!
WHAT A LUXURIOUS DELIGHT, TRUFFLE SAUCE!

DELICIOUS!





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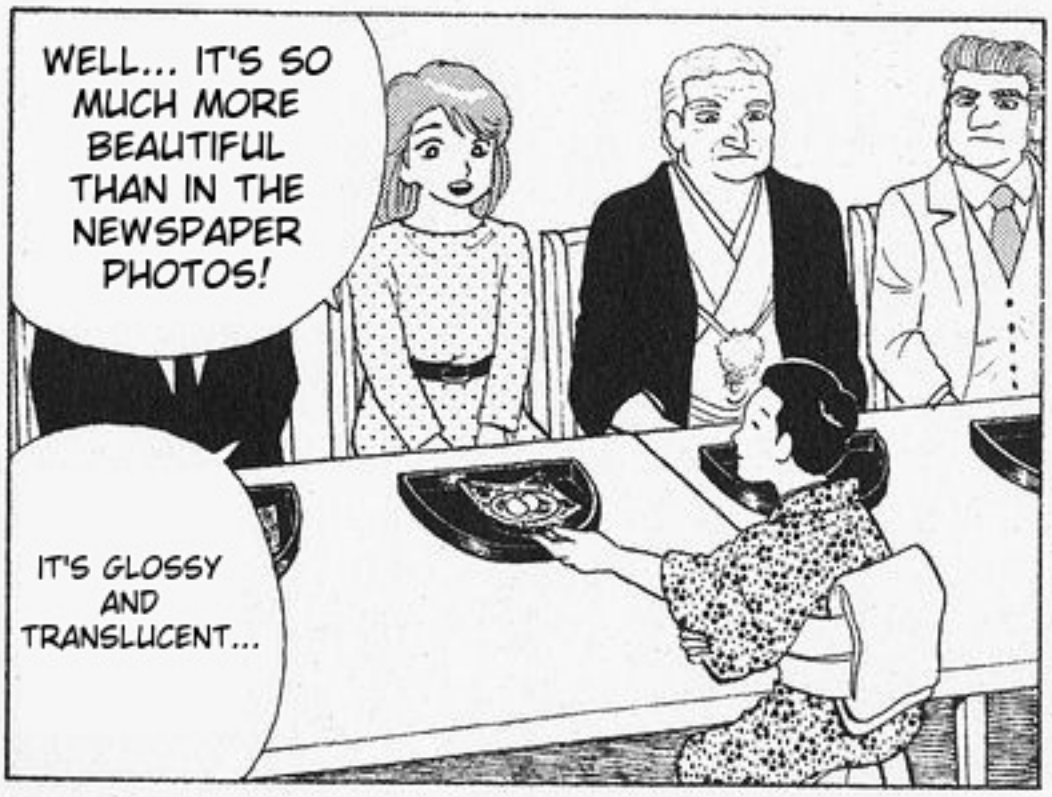
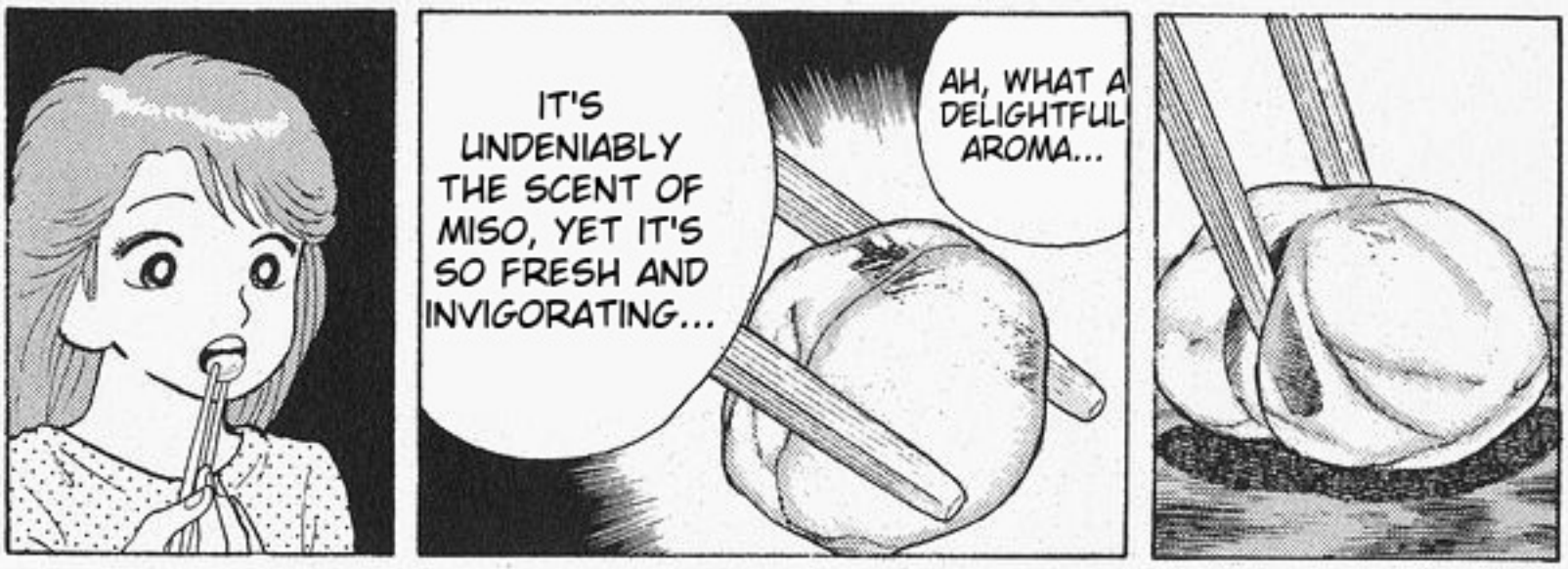
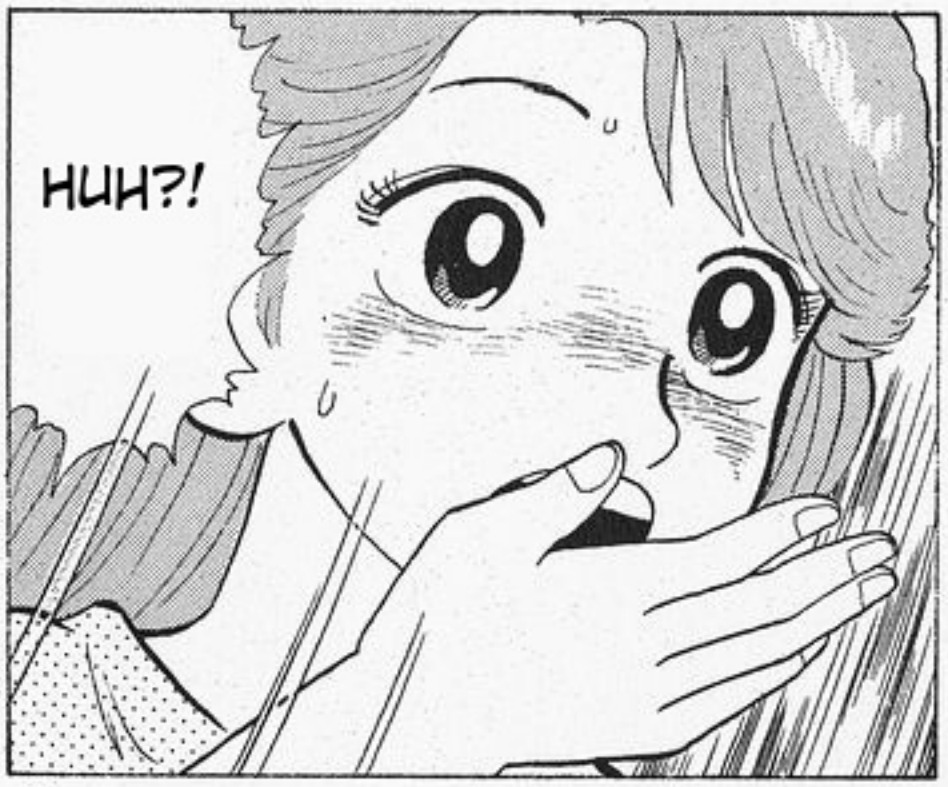
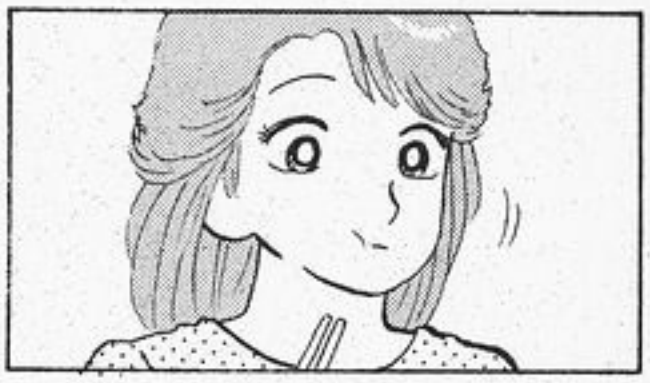
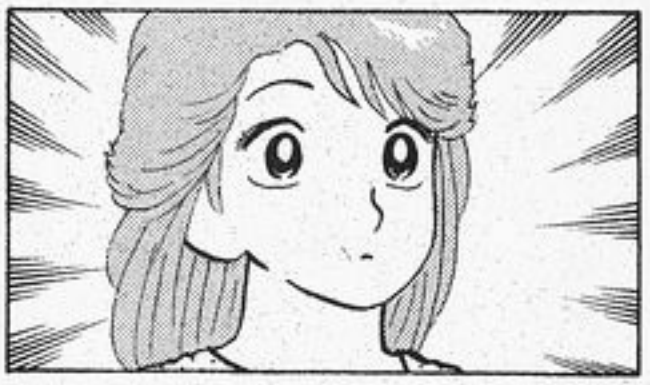
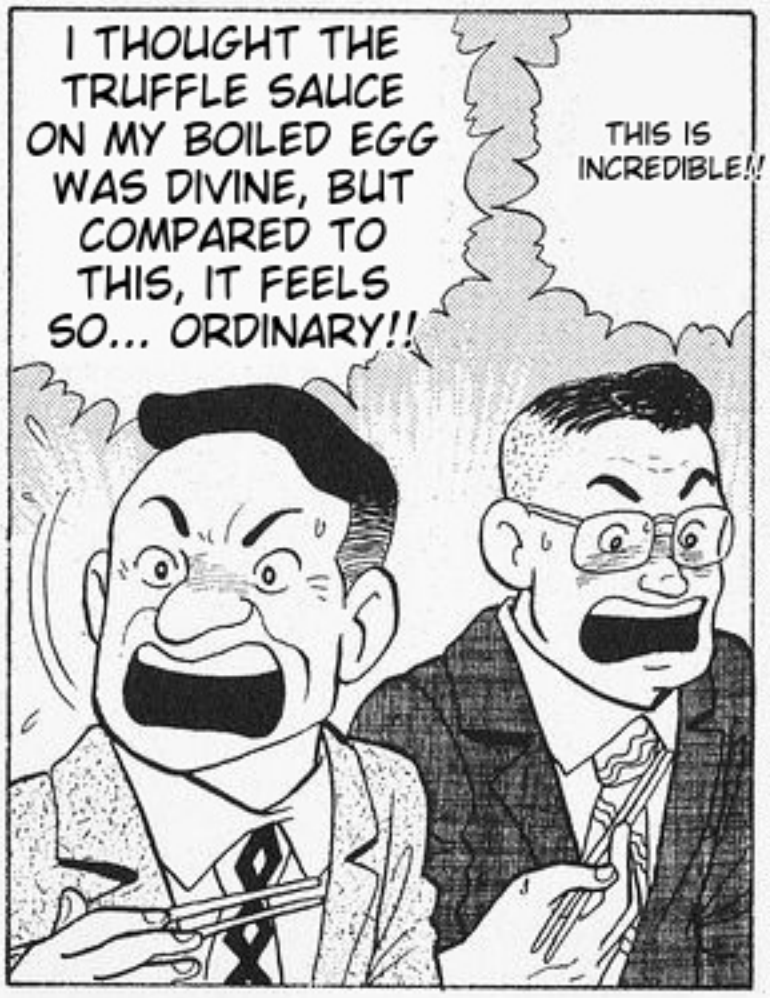



IT'S UNDENIABLY THE SCENT OF MISO, YET IT'S SO FRESH AND INVIGORATING...
AH, WHAT A DELIGHTFUL AROMA...

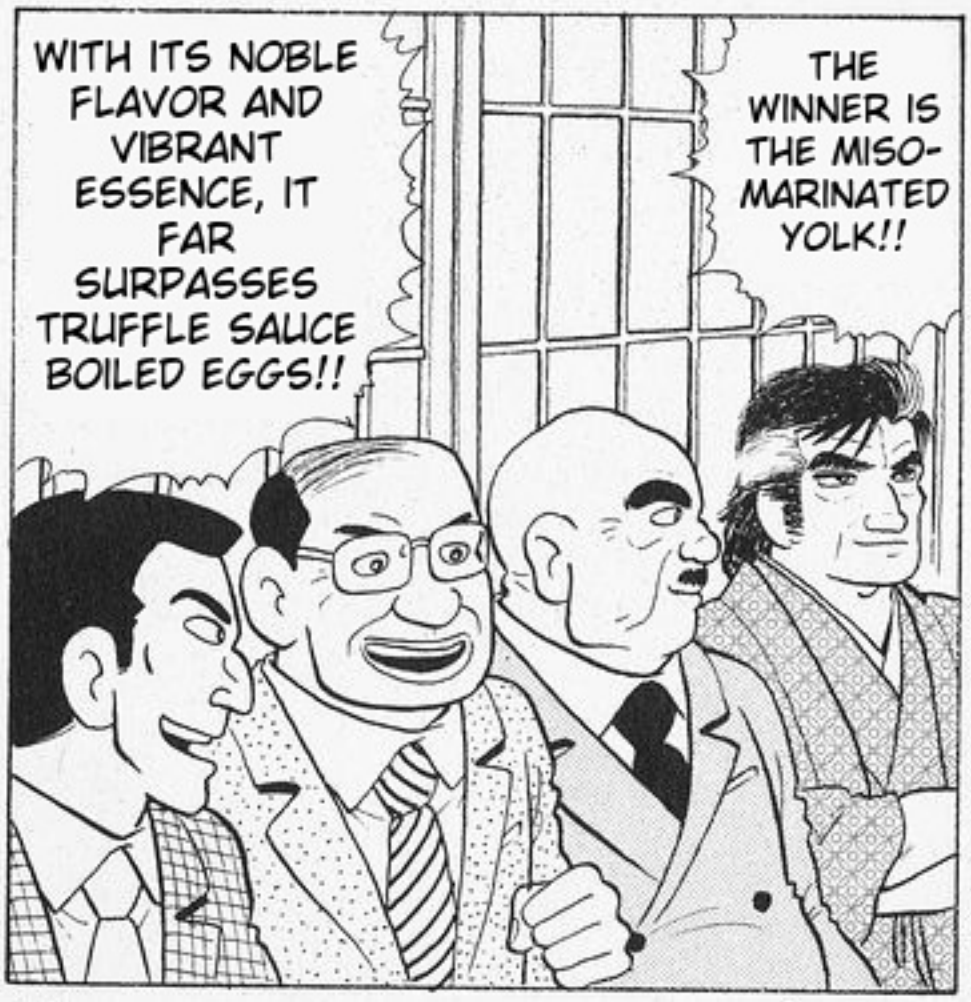

HUH?!

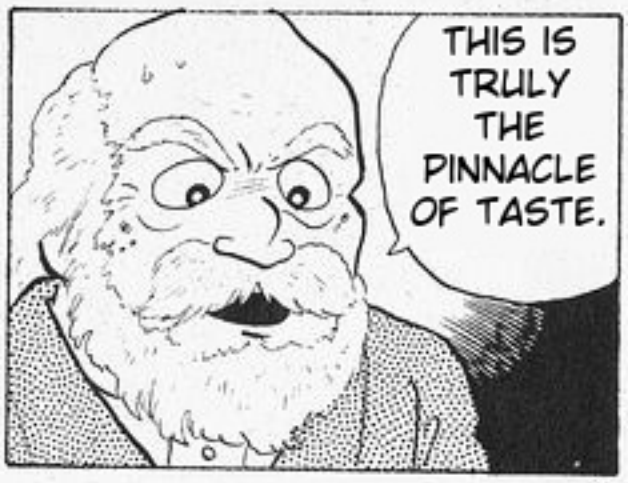





I THOUGHT THE TRUFFLE SAUCE ON MY BOILED EGG WAS DIVINE, BUT COMPARED TO THIS, IT FEELS SO... ORDINARY!!
THIS IS INCREDIBLE!!

DELICIOUS!





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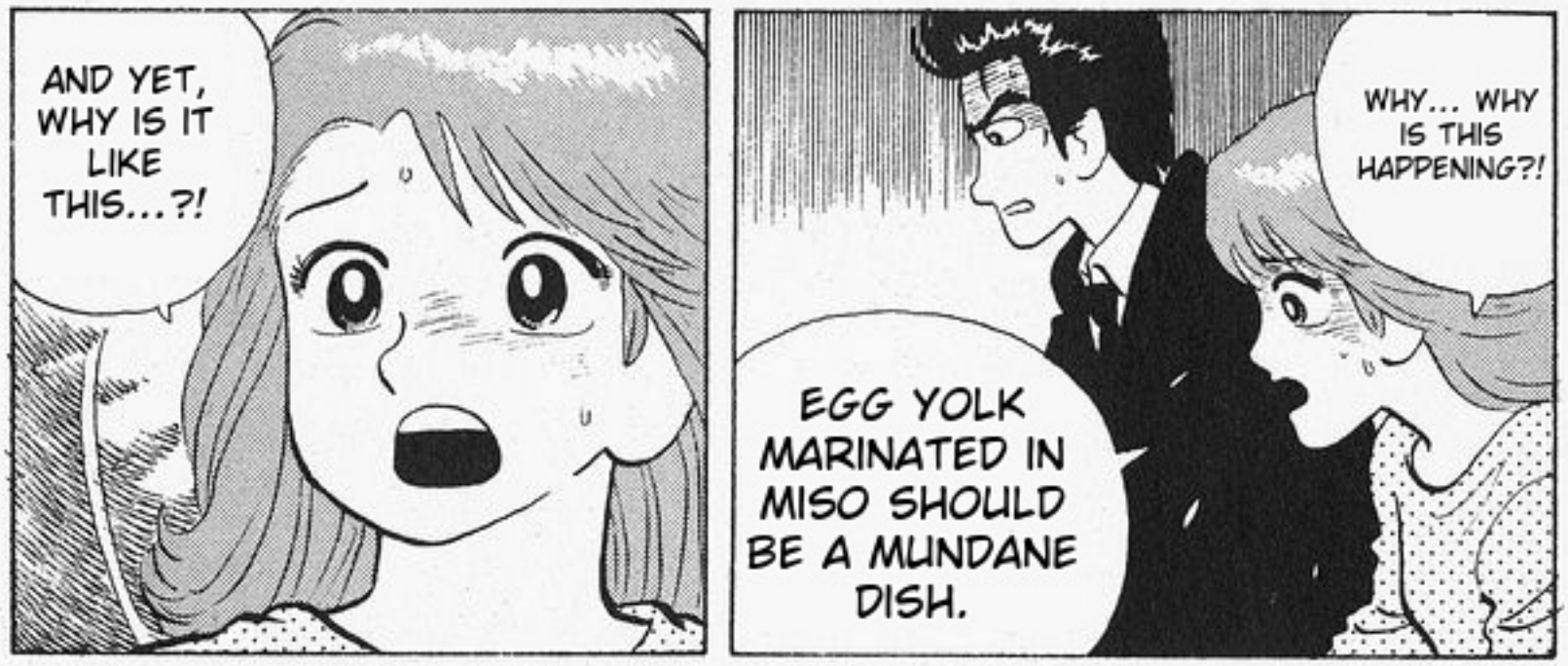
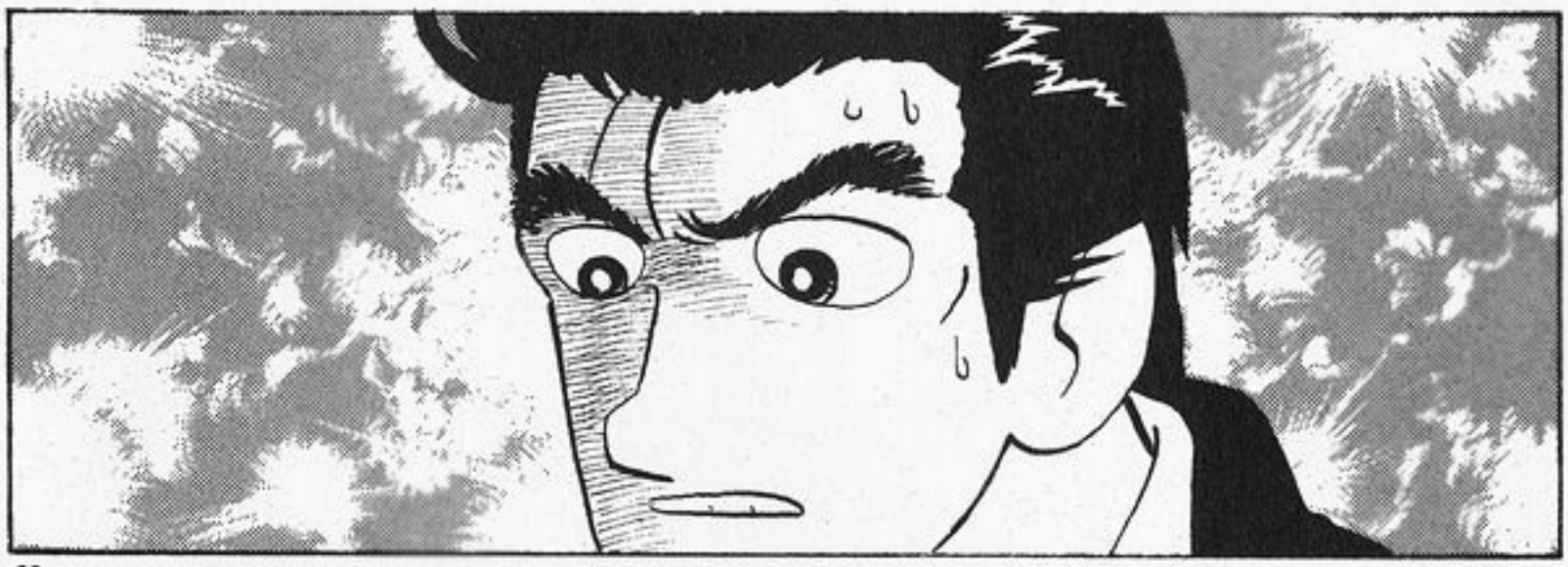
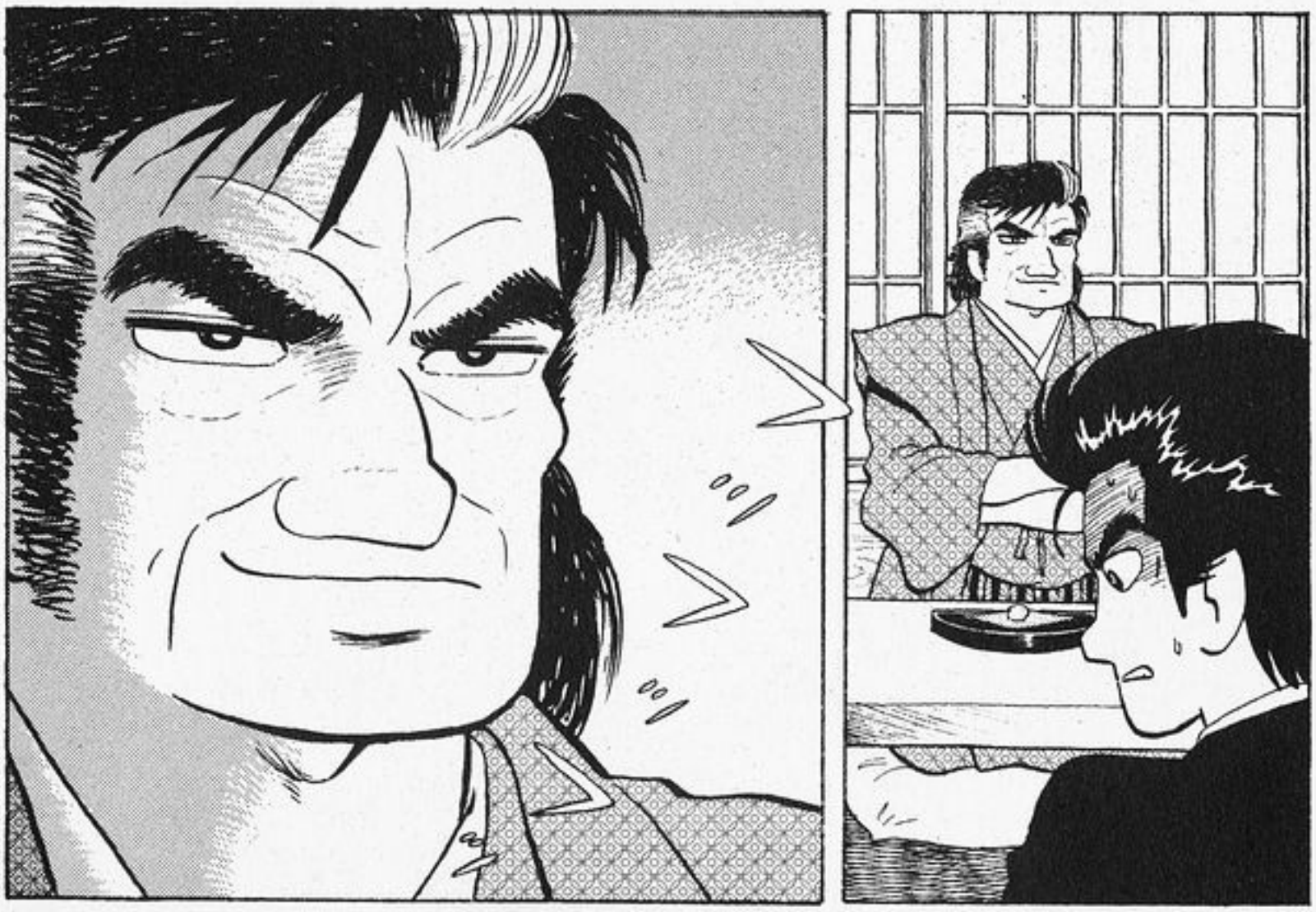

AND YET, WHY IS IT LIKE THIS...?!
WHY... WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?!
EGG YOLK MARINATED IN MISO SHOULD BE A MUNDANE DISH.





第1話

究極VS至高

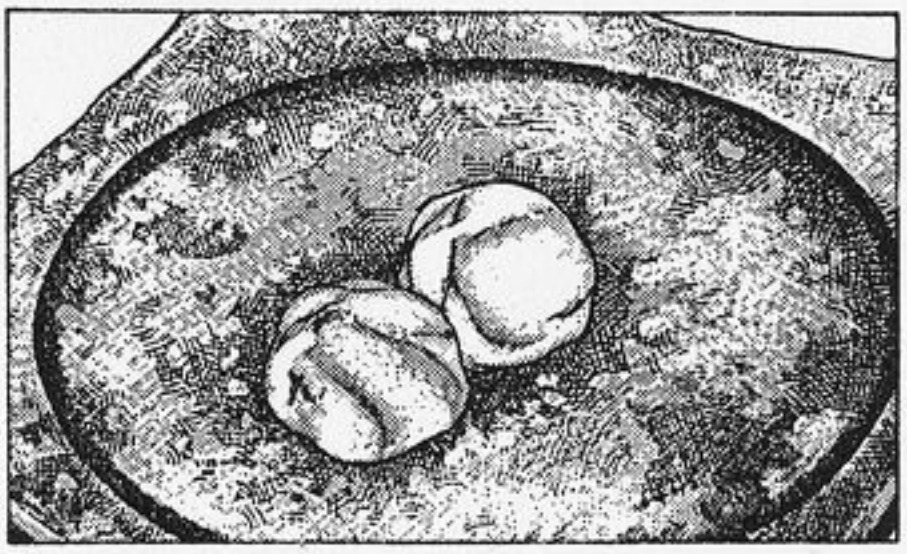
〈後編〉

THIS IS JUST A SIMPLE MISO PICKLED EGG...

WHAT IS THE MAGIC BEHIND IT?!

I THOUGHT THERE COULD BE NO GREATER EGG DISH THAN THAT...

WHEN I SAVORED YAMAOKA'S TRUFFLE SAUCE WITH BOILED EGGS...



THERE'S NO FISHY SMELL, AND IT'S NOT OVERWHELMING AT ALL...

YET HERE I AM, ENCHANTED BY JUST A MISO-PICKLED YOLK...

THE BRILLIANCE IS EXQUISITE, LIKE THE TASTE OF A PRECIOUS GEM...

2

COULD THERE BE A SECRET TO THIS MISO SEASONING...?

BUT SURELY, THIS CAN'T BE JUST ANY ORDINARY PICKLED EGG!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15

FIRST, ABOUT THE PICKLING METHOD—IT'S JUST AS I WROTE ON THE PAGE. NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT IT.

WELL...

NOW THAT'S A CLEVER APPROACH! THAT'LL DEFINITELY CAPTIVATE THE READERS!

OH, UH, RIGHT...

SO, I CHOSE THE SOYBEANS.

THIS MISO FOR THE EGG YOLK CAN'T BE AS SWEET AS WHITE MISO, NOR CAN IT BE AS BITTER AS HACCHO MISO.

THE FIRST SECRET LIES WITHIN THE MISO.

THAT'S SO TYPICAL OF KAIBARA-SAN.

WHOA... FROM THE SOYBEANS USED FOR THE MISO?

I WANT TO ADD A SUBTLE SWEETNESS TO THE CRISP RED MISO.

4

HMM... AND THE AGING TIME...

SIGH...

ALSO, MISO THAT'S BEEN AGED JUST ONE YEAR IS STILL TOO YOUNG AND LACKS DEPTH, WHILE THREE YEARS BRINGS OUT BITTERNESS AND MAKES IT TOO HARSH.

I USED A VARIETY FROM TOYAMA CALLED 'ENREI' FOR THE RED MISO.

TWO YEARS IS JUST RIGHT FOR PICKLING THE YOLKS.

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15

WE BLEND THEM IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE SWEETNESS IS JUST SUBTLE ENOUGH TO NOT BE OVERWHELMING.

THE MISO FOR SOAKING THE YOLK IS MADE BY COMBINING BOTH TYPES.

HMM, I SEE... OH MY GOODNESS, OH MY GOODNESS, OH MY GOODNESS, OH MY GOODNESS, OH MY GOODNESS, OH MY GOODNESS!

FEELING THE SWEETNESS TOO STRONGLY CAN BE QUITE OFF-PUTTING, CAN'T IT?

' THIS SOYBEAN IS RICH IN SUGARS, ALLOWING US TO CREATE A DELICATELY SWEET WHITE MISO.

ON THE OTHER HAND, FOR THE WHITE MISO, WE USE THE AKITA VARIETY CALLED 'SHIROCHINARI.

WHEN PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES ARE USED, IT DISRUPTS THE PLANT'S METABOLISM, LEADING TO UNHEALTHY GROWTH. THIS CAN RESULT IN UNDERDEVELOPED BEANS OR A BITTER TASTE.

AND OF COURSE, BOTH VARIETIES OF SOYBEANS ARE CULTIVATED WITHOUT THE USE OF PESTICIDES OR HERBICIDES.

5

!.....

HOWEVER, THE REAL GAME-CHANGER IS THE EGG.

WELL... TO THINK WE TRACE BACK TO SUCH ROOTS JUST TO CRAFT A SIMPLE MISO...

IF THEY'RE RAISED NOT EVEN REGARDED AS LIVING BEINGS, TREATED LIKE MERE MACHINES THAT TURN FEED INTO EGGS, THERE'S NO WAY THEY'LL BECOME HEALTHY CHICKENS!

INSTEAD, IN CRAMPED CAGES, THEY'RE STUFFED WITH ANTIBIOTIC-LADEN FEED, SPENDING THEIR LIVES WITHOUT EVER TOUCHING THE GROUND OR SEEING THE SUN...

THESE WERE RAISED IN A NATURAL OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT.

THE BREED IS ONAGADORI. WHILE IT LAYS FEWER EGGS THAN THE WHITE LEGHORN, THE FLAVOR OF ITS EGGS IS RICHER.

THE FEED WAS PRIMARILY MADE UP OF LEFTOVER RICE, BARLEY, AND RICE BRAN.

I SEE... THE YOLK IS INDEED A TREASURE TROVE OF VITAL NUTRIENTS FOR A CHICK TO GROW, BUT IT ALSO GATHERS THE NOT-SO-GREAT COMPONENTS TOO.

AMONG THOSE, THE YOLK TENDS TO COLLECT SOME PRETTY UNPLEASANT ODORS.

UNHEALTHY CHICKENS PRODUCE NOT ONLY TERRIBLE-TASTING MEAT BUT THEIR EGGS ARE DOWNRIGHT FOUL!

HMM, EVEN WITHIN FREE-RANGE FARMING, THERE'S A WIDE SPECTRUM FROM GOOD TO BAD.

6

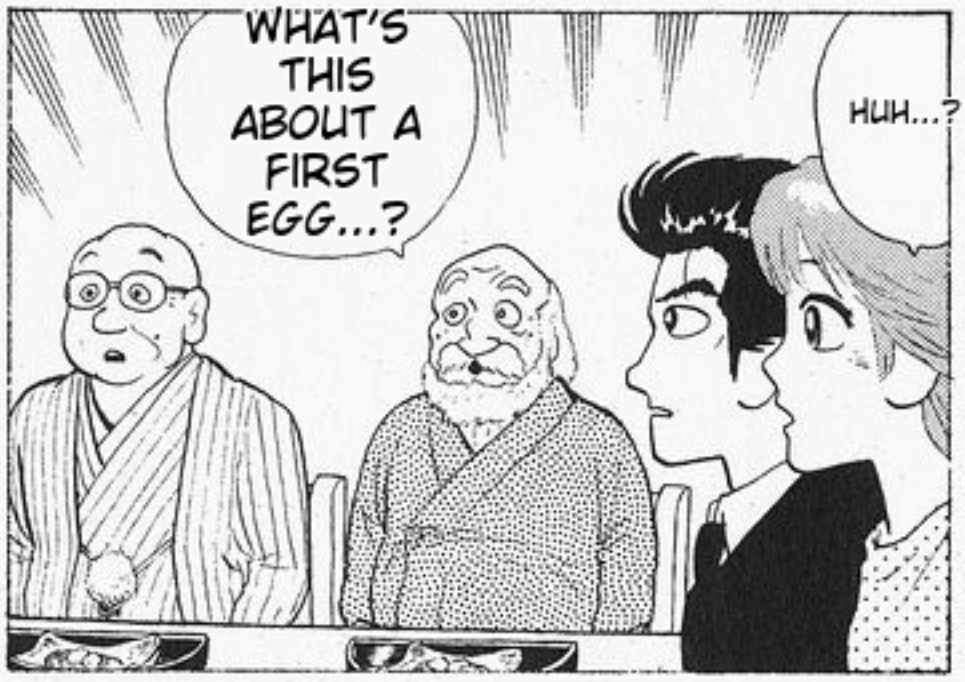
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...?

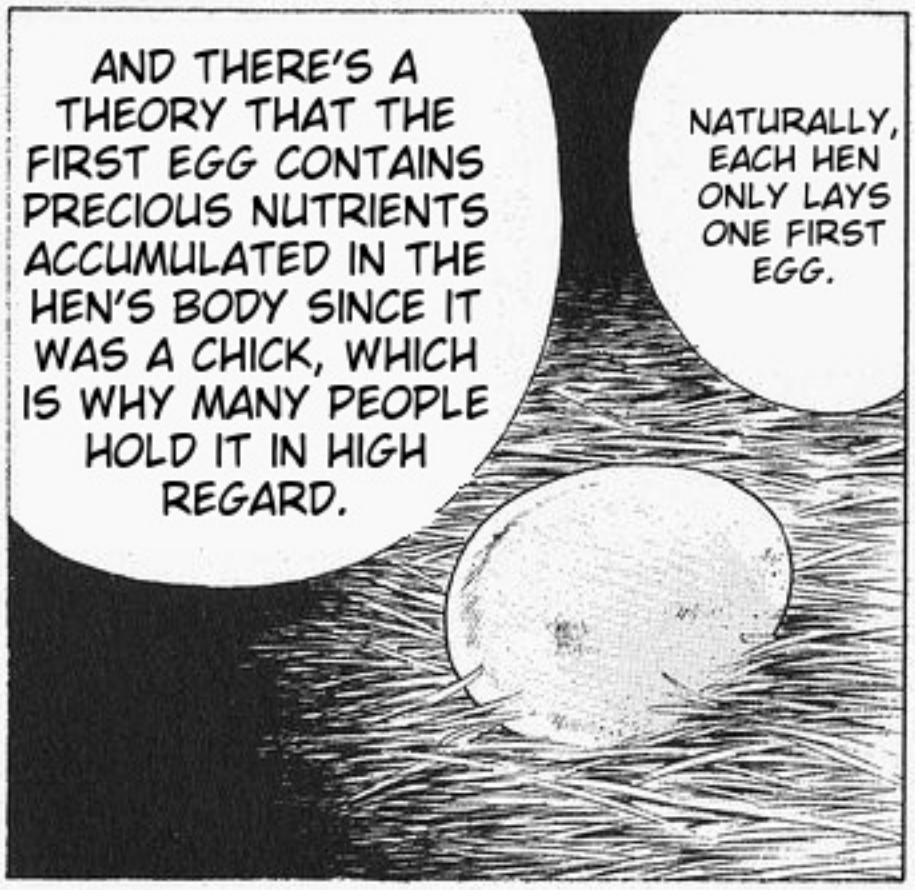
?

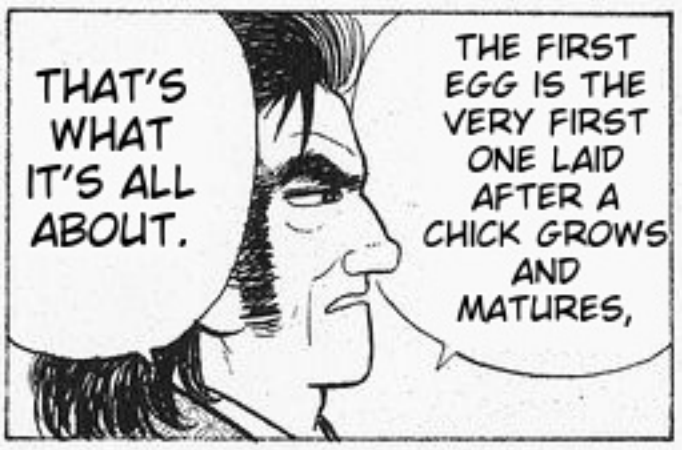
EVEN THAT BOILED EGG WITH TRUFFLE SAUCE WAS MADE WITH PROPERLY SOURCED FREE-RANGE EGGS!

THAT'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY BE MINDFUL OF THE MOMENT YOU DECIDE TO WHIP UP AN EGG DISH.

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15







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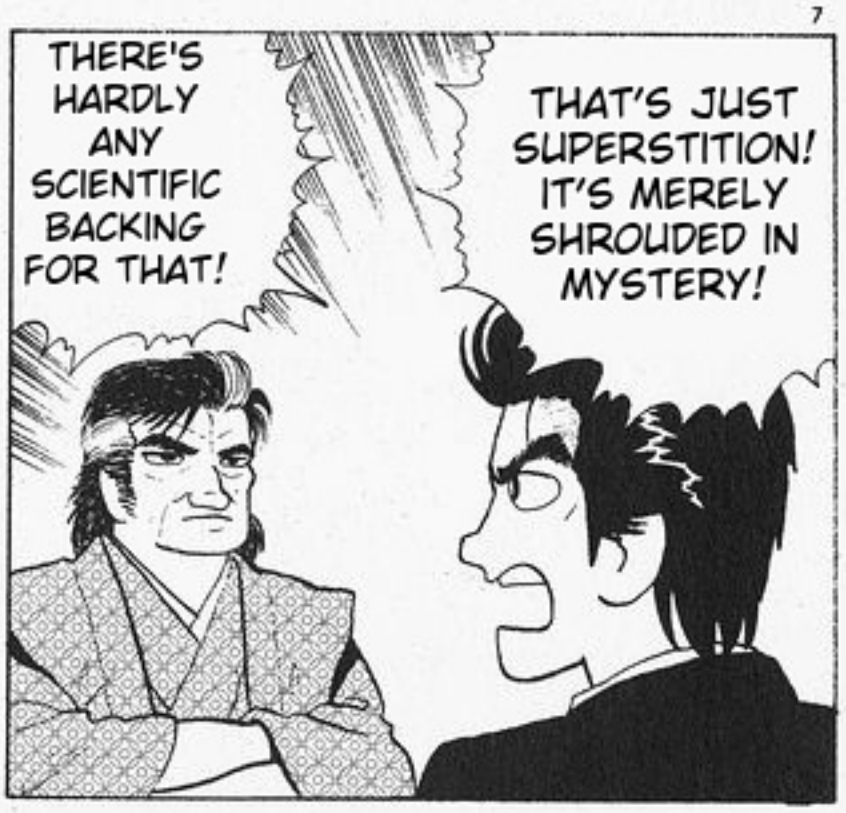


WHEN THE TIME FEELS LIKE IT'S RIPE FOR HATCHING, YOU CAN'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF THEM FOR EVEN A MOMENT...

IT'S A TASK THAT REQUIRES A DEDICATED KEEPER, SOMEONE WHO WATCHES EACH HEN WITH UNWAVERING ATTENTION.

HOW DO HUMANS ACQUIRE THAT FIRST EGG?

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...

R-REALLY...!

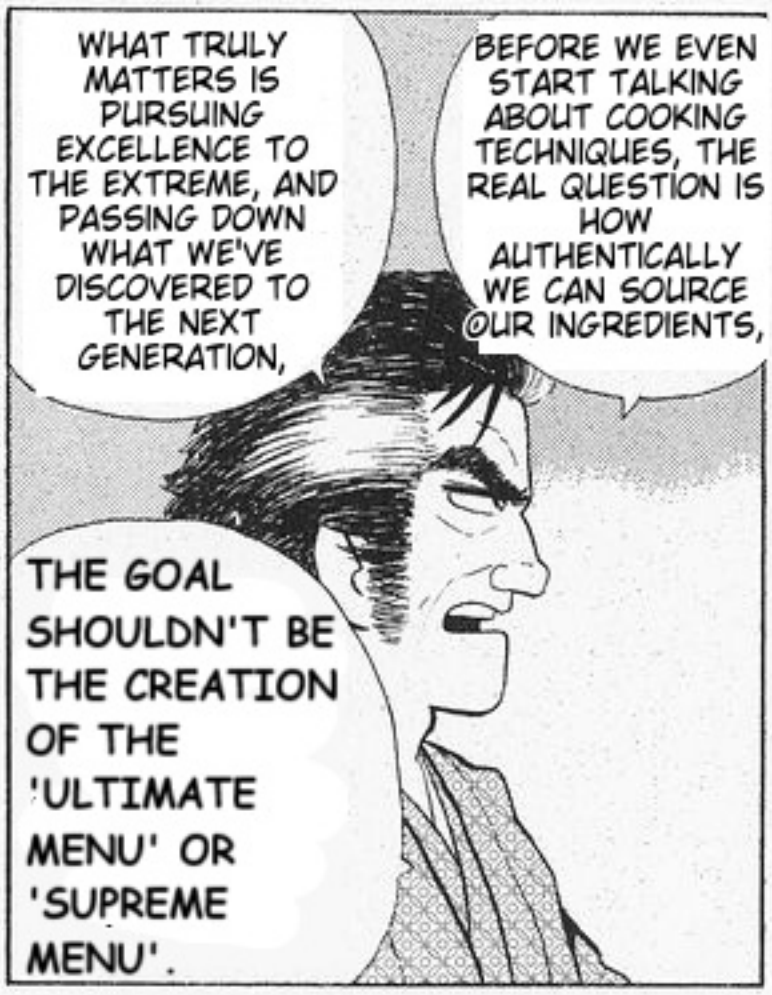
WHAT DOES THAT IMPLY...?

THESE ARE EGGS LAID BY HENS THAT HAVE BEEN WATCHED OVER METICULOUSLY, ENSURING THEY'RE IN PERFECT HEALTH!

WHETHER IT'S THEIR FIRST EGG OR NOT, THE CONTENTS ARE BOUND TO BE EXTRAORDINARY.

THE EGGS FROM HENS NURTURED WITH SUCH CARE,

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15



9

IF YOU FORGET THAT AND CHASE AFTER THIS 'ULTIMATE MENU', YOU'RE JUST PLAYING A GOURMET CHARADE,

IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A MALICIOUS AND FOOLISH GAME!!

THE ONLY THING THAT CAN TRULY MOVE THE HUMAN HEART IS THE HUMAN HEART ITSELF.

INDEED...

MR. OHARA, IF YOU TRULY WANT TO PUSH THIS PROJECT FORWARD, YOU'D BETTER REPLACE THE PERSON IN CHARGE WITH SOMEONE WHO ACTUALLY UNDERSTANDS THE STAKES!

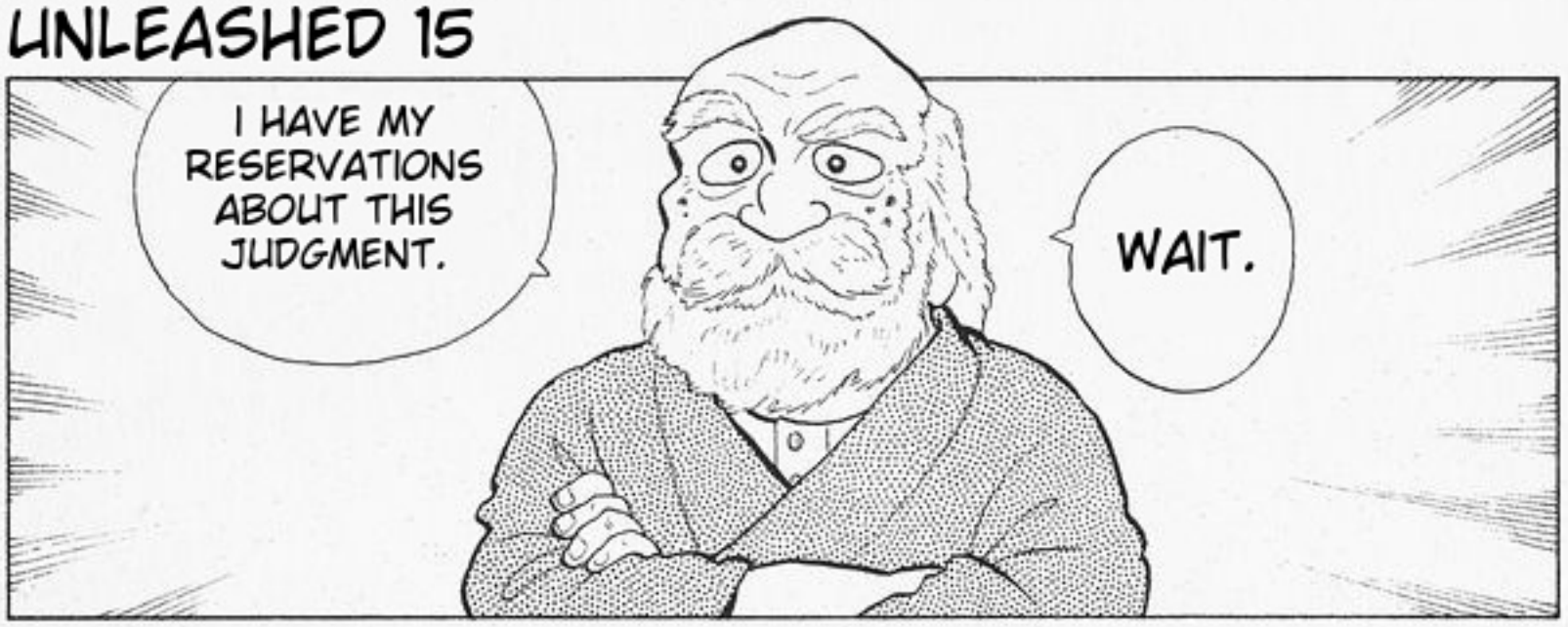
WITH AN APPETIZER LIKE THIS, IT'S CLEAR WHAT WE CAN EXPECT FROM THIS SO-CALLED 'ULTIMATE MENU'!

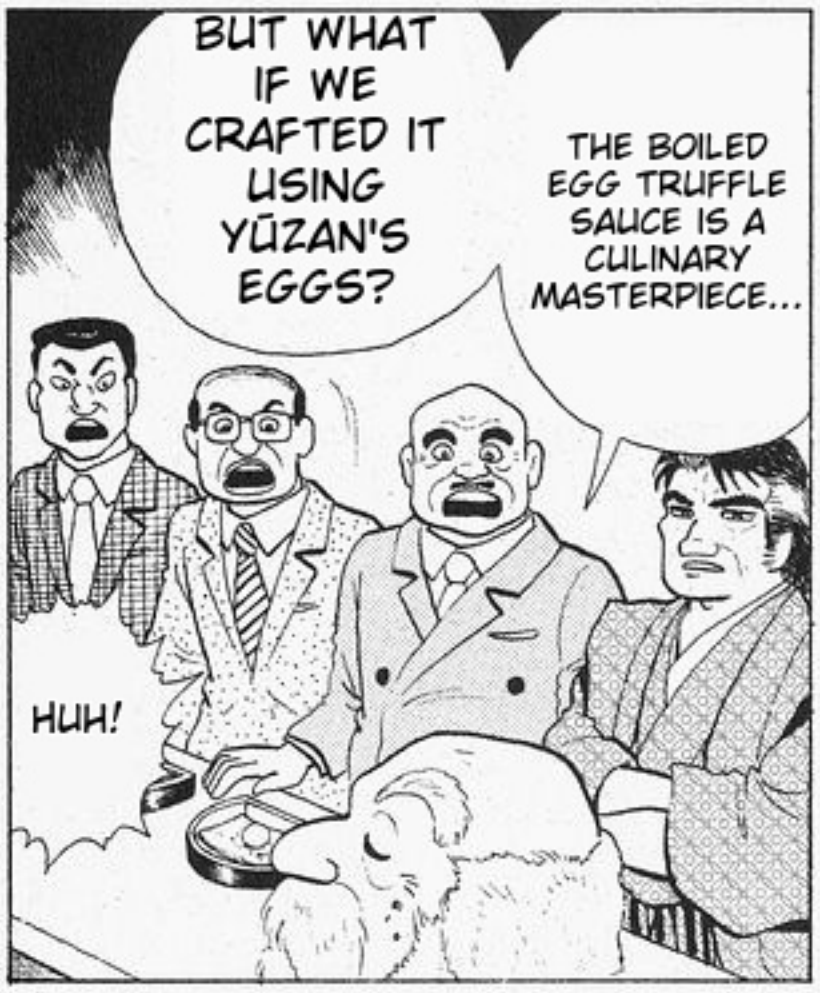
10

.....

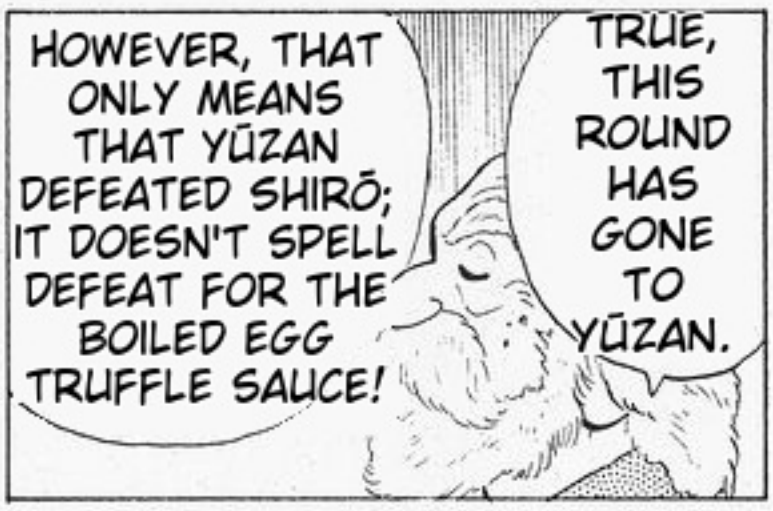
THE GAME IS OVER, IT SEEMS...

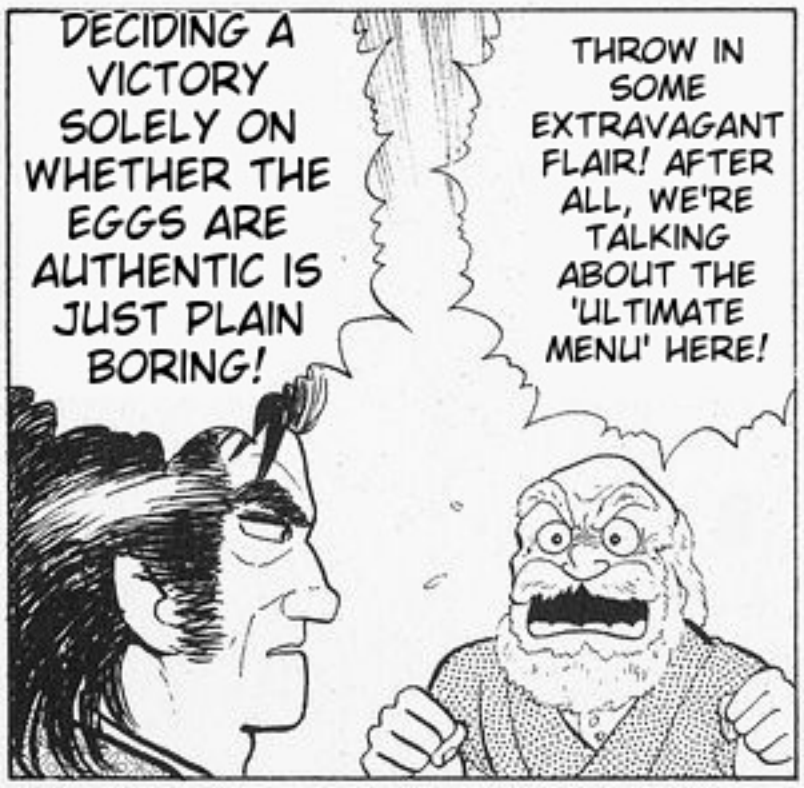
WELL THEN, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE REACHED A CONCLUSION...


I HAVE MY RESERVATIONS ABOUT THIS JUDGMENT.
WAIT.


BUT WHAT IF WE CRAFTED IT USING YŪZAN'S EGGS?
THE BOILED EGG TRUFFLE SAUCE IS A CULINARY MASTERPIECE...
HUH!

PROFESSOR TŌJIN...?


HOWEVER, THAT ONLY MEANS THAT YŪZAN DEFEATED SHIRŌ; IT DOESN'T SPELL DEFEAT FOR THE BOILED EGG TRUFFLE SAUCE!
TRUE, THIS ROUND HAS GONE TO YŪZAN.


DECIDING A VICTORY SOLELY ON WHETHER THE EGGS ARE AUTHENTIC IS JUST PLAIN BORING!
THROW IN SOME EXTRAVAGANT FLAIR! AFTER ALL, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' HERE!

PROFESSOR TOYAMA, THAT'S UTTERLY RIDICULOUS!

11

IF WE ONLY FOLLOW YŪZAN'S RIGID RECIPES, EVERYTHING BECOMES STIFF AND DULL!
WHAT ON EARTH IS SO RIDICULOUS ABOUT IT!

THAT'S RIGHT... YAMAOKA DIDN'T LOSE ENTIRELY.

THE 'ULTIMATE' HASN'T BEEN DEFEATED BY THE 'SUPREME' YET!!

SPEAKING OF WHICH, DECIDING SOLELY BASED ON INGREDIENTS...

INDEED, I OVERLOOKED THE CULINARY EVALUATION ASPECT...

.....

THE TIDES ARE TURNING, INDEED. HMM.

THIS WILL BE TRULY SPLENDID!

12

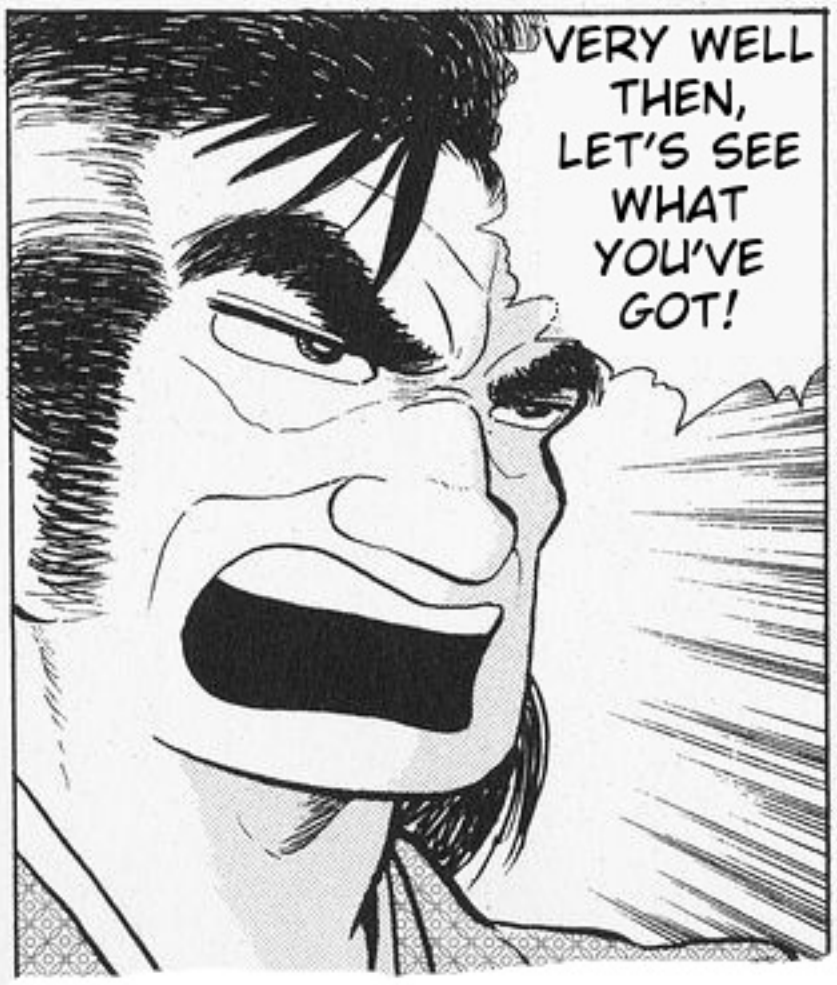
THIS PROJECT IS REALLY HEATING UP!

THIS IS GETTING INTERESTING!

WITH THOSE EGGS, GO AHEAD AND WHIP UP SOME BOILED EGGS WITH TRUFFLE SAUCE!

VERY WELL THEN, I'LL DONATE THE EGGS I USED TO THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15



WELL, CAN SHIRO TRULY PULL IT OFF?

THANKS TO PROFESSOR TOYAMA, I'M ALIVE AND KICKING AGAIN...

I ACTUALLY GOT A HINT STRAIGHT FROM KAIBARA YUZAN...

I'LL MANAGE SOMEHOW.

DOES JUST CHANGING THE EGG REALLY CHANGE THE WHOLE EVALUATION...?

SERIOUSLY...?

14

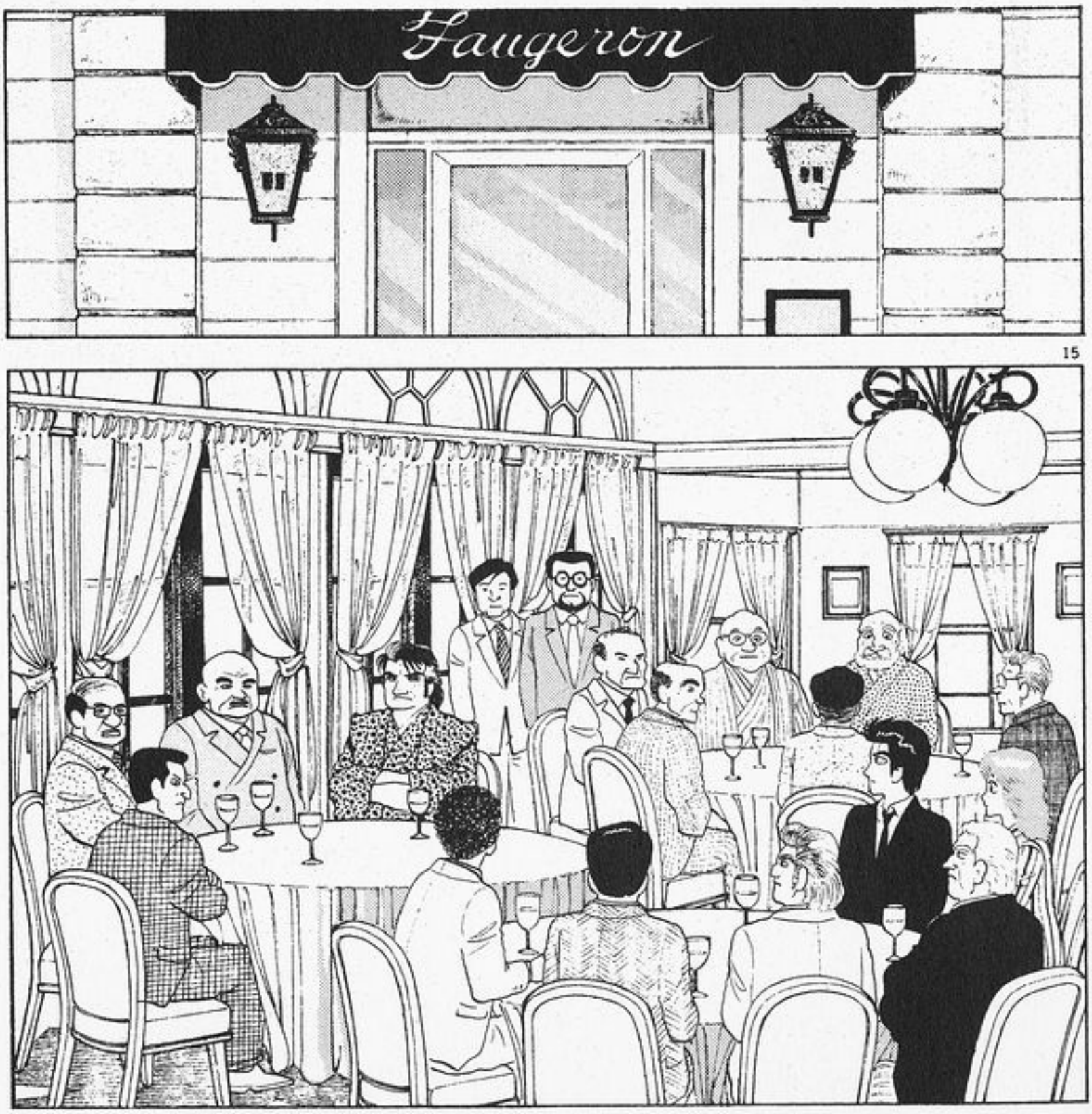
THAT'S SO UNFAIR! HERE I AM, WORRYING MY HEART OUT FOR YOU!

JUST WAIT AND SEE, IT'S GOING TO BE A TREAT!

OH, SO YOU DO HAVE AN IDEA?!

WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?!

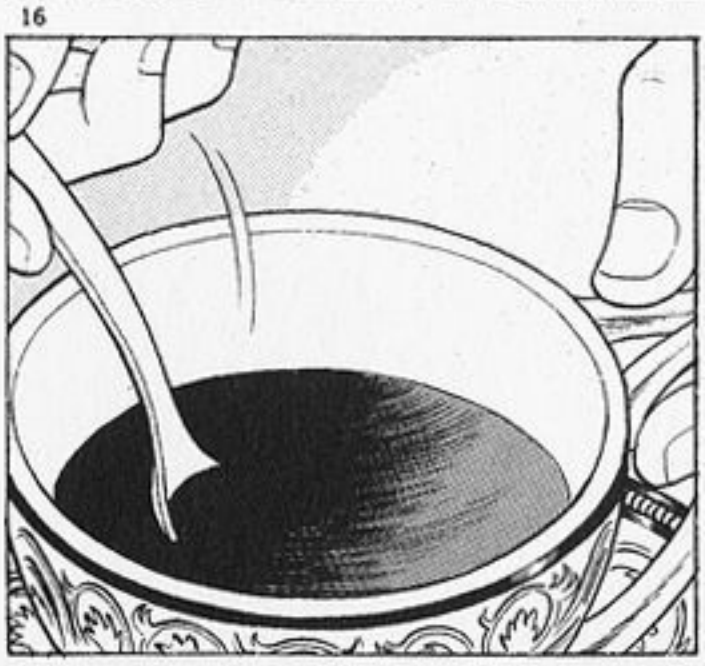
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15

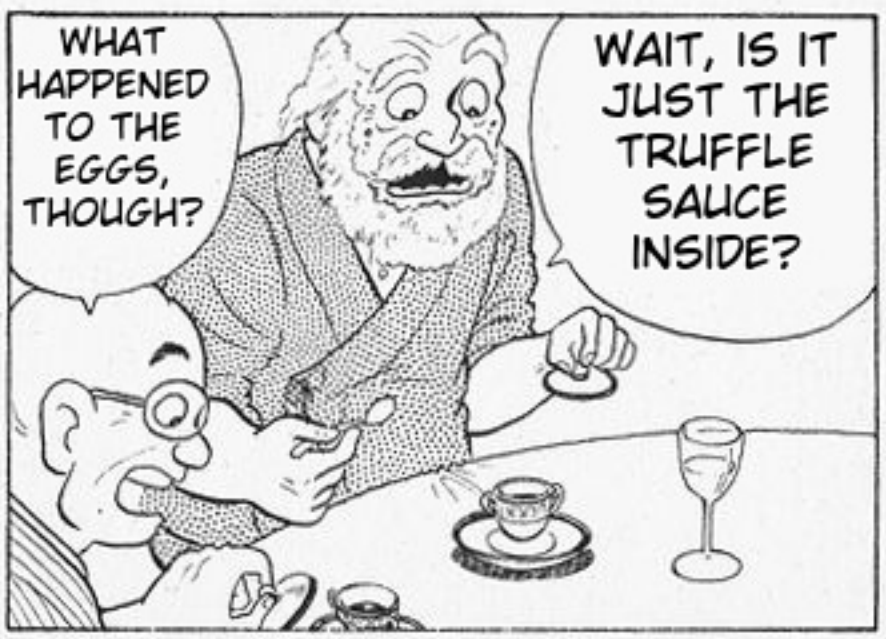


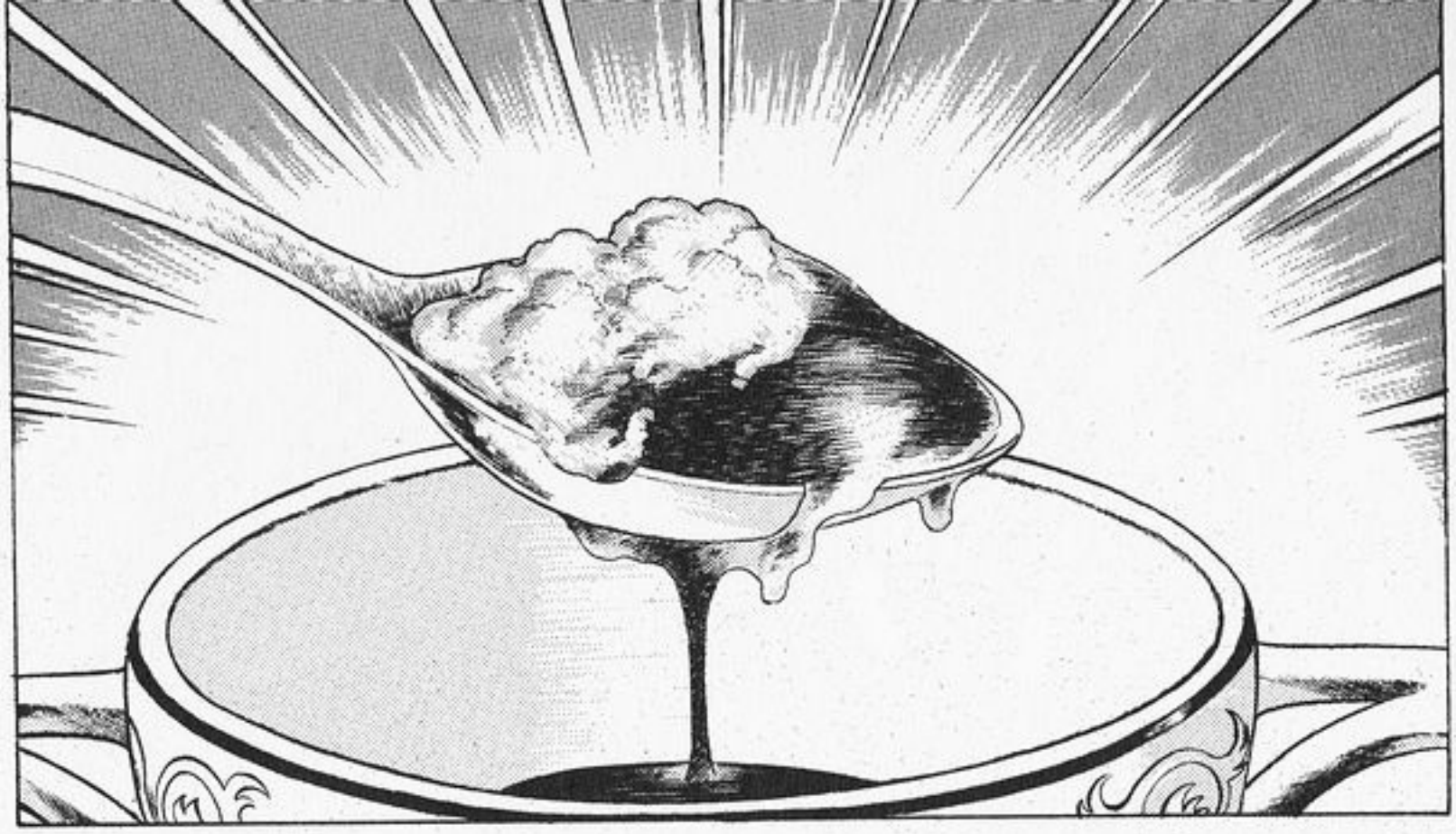
WELL THEN, LET'S PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF, SHALL WE?
THE EGGS, PROVIDED BY THE ESTEEMED CHEF KAIBARA YUZAN, HAVE BEEN PREPARED BY THE TOZAI NEWS TEAM...

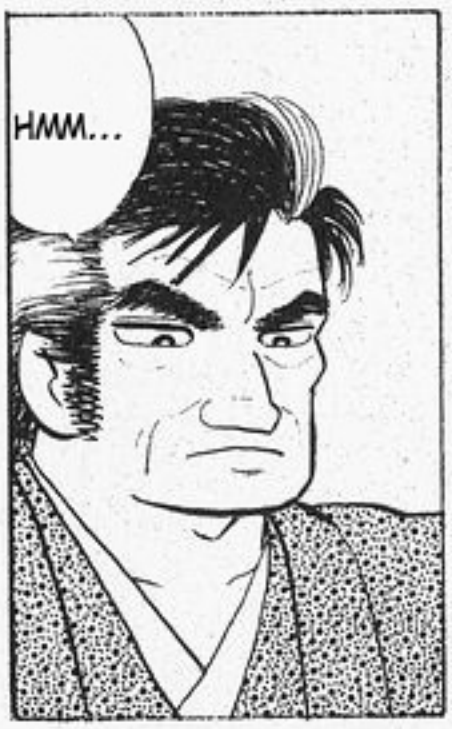
NOW, LET'S DIG IN WITHOUT FURTHER ADO!

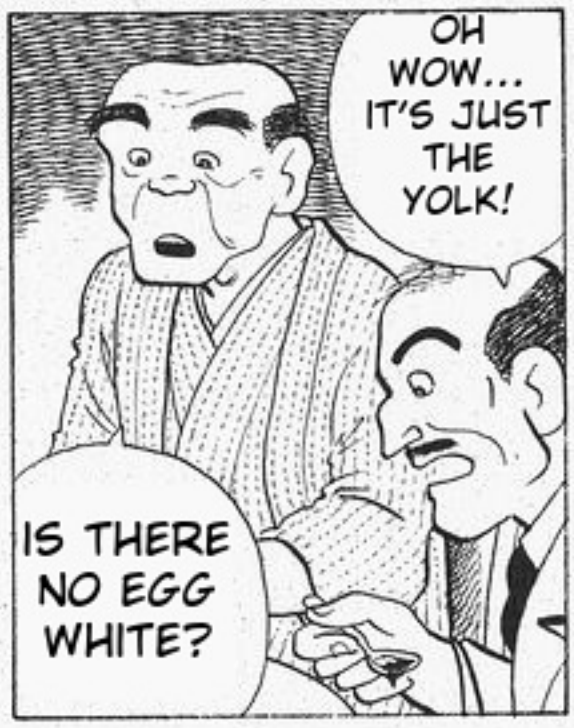
16

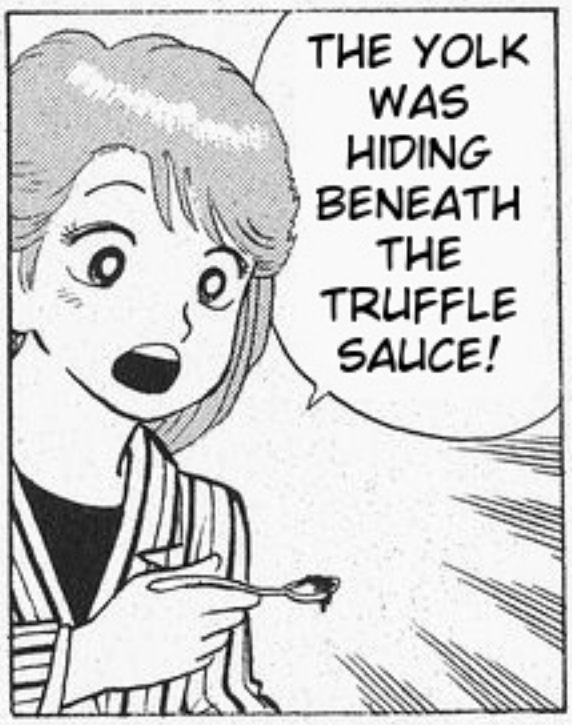



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE EGGS, THOUGH?
WAIT, IS IT JUST THE TRUFFLE SAUCE INSIDE?




HMM...


OH WOW... IT'S JUST THE YOLK!
IS THERE NO EGG WHITE?


THE YOLK WAS HIDING BENEATH THE TRUFFLE SAUCE!

DON'T MIX IT TOO MUCH.
PLEASE SCOOP UP THE YOLK AND SAUCE TOGETHER FOR A DELIGHTFUL TASTE.

17

IT'S SEVERAL NOTCHES ABOVE THAT BOILED EGG TRUFFLE SAUCE FROM BEFORE!!

OH WOW -!! THIS IS AMAZING!!

GIVE ME ANOTHER HELPING -!!

THIS IS WAY BETTER THAN YOLK MARINATED IN MISO!!

YAMAOKA -!! WE DID IT-!!

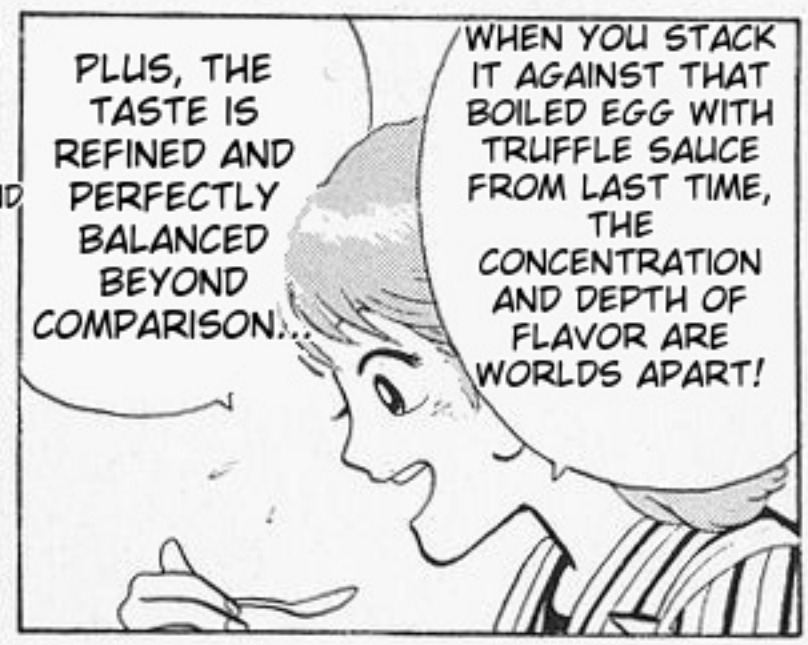
18

THIS IS JUST THE YOLK, SO THE FLAVOR IS RICH AND INTENSE!!

GOT IT, I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND NOW!!

PLUS, THE TASTE IS REFINED AND PERFECTLY BALANCED BEYOND COMPARISON...

WHEN YOU STACK IT AGAINST THAT BOILED EGG WITH TRUFFLE SAUCE FROM LAST TIME, THE CONCENTRATION AND DEPTH OF FLAVOR ARE WORLDS APART!



DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15

IT HAS AN UNPLEASANT TEXTURE AND A DILUTED FLAVOR.

YES, I'VE LONG THOUGHT THAT THIS DISH HAD TOO MUCH EGG WHITE.

YET, I WAS TRAPPED BY THE PRECONCEIVED NOTION OF 'BOILED EGG,' NEVER THINKING TO CHALLENGE IT.

WHAT?!?

I SEE! SO, THE HINT YOU GOT FROM YUZAN WAS ABOUT THIS VERY THING!

AFTER ALL, THE YOLK IS THE STAR OF THE SHOW, SO THIS METHOD IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE BETTER CHOICE!

' THIS TIME, I SIMPLY WARMED THE YOLK UNTIL IT WAS JUST SOFT ENOUGH, THEN DRIZZLED SAUCE ON TOP.

THE KEY WAS TO BREAK FREE FROM THE CONCEPT OF 'BOILED EGG.

IF IT'S A GOOD EGG, WARMING IT UNLOCKS ITS TRUE POTENTIAL.

THE YOLK, WHEN WARMED JUST RIGHT, ELEVATES BOTH ITS FLAVOR AND AROMA.

INDEED, WHEN YOU TAKE THE TEMPERATURE INTO CONSIDERATION, THIS TRUFFLE EGG TRULY REIGNS SUPREME!!

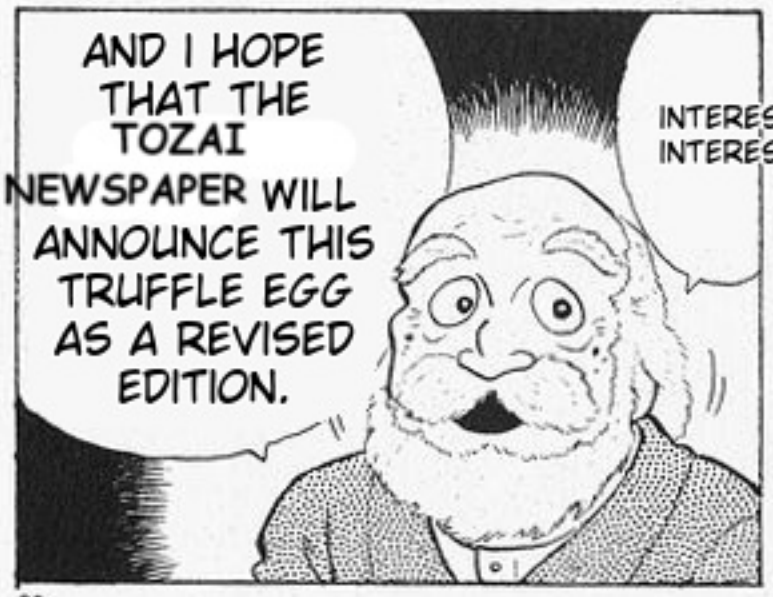
UMM...

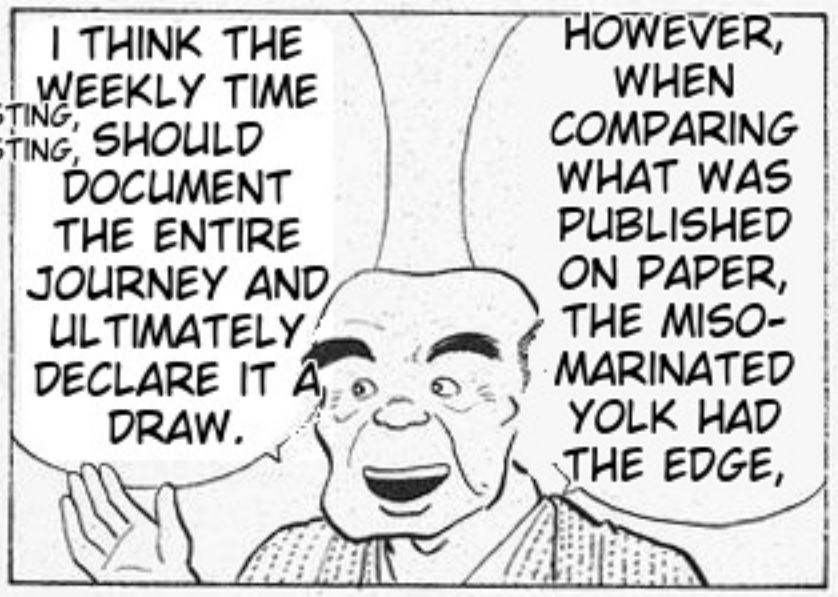
19

THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT MAKES IT GREAT!

PLUS, UNLIKE CHEF KAIBARA'S MISO-MARINATED VERSION, THIS YOLK IS WARM...

HMM...

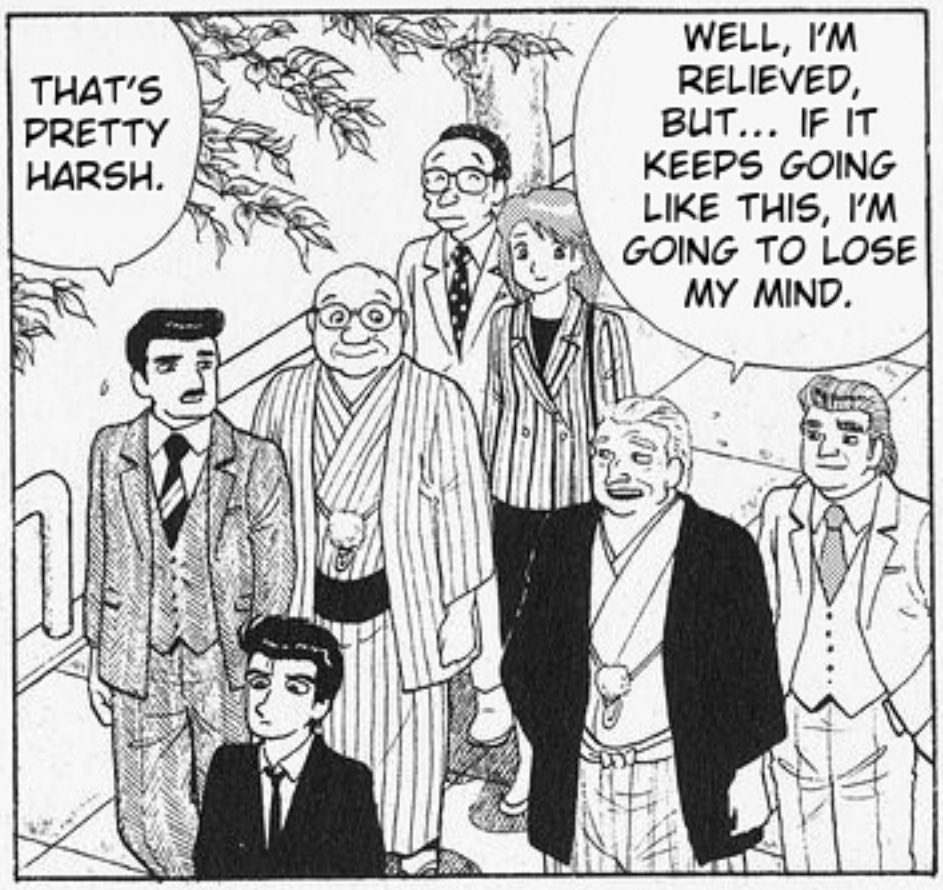

AND I HOPE THAT THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER WILL ANNOUNCE THIS TRUFFLE EGG AS A REVISED EDITION.
INTERESTING, INTERESTING,

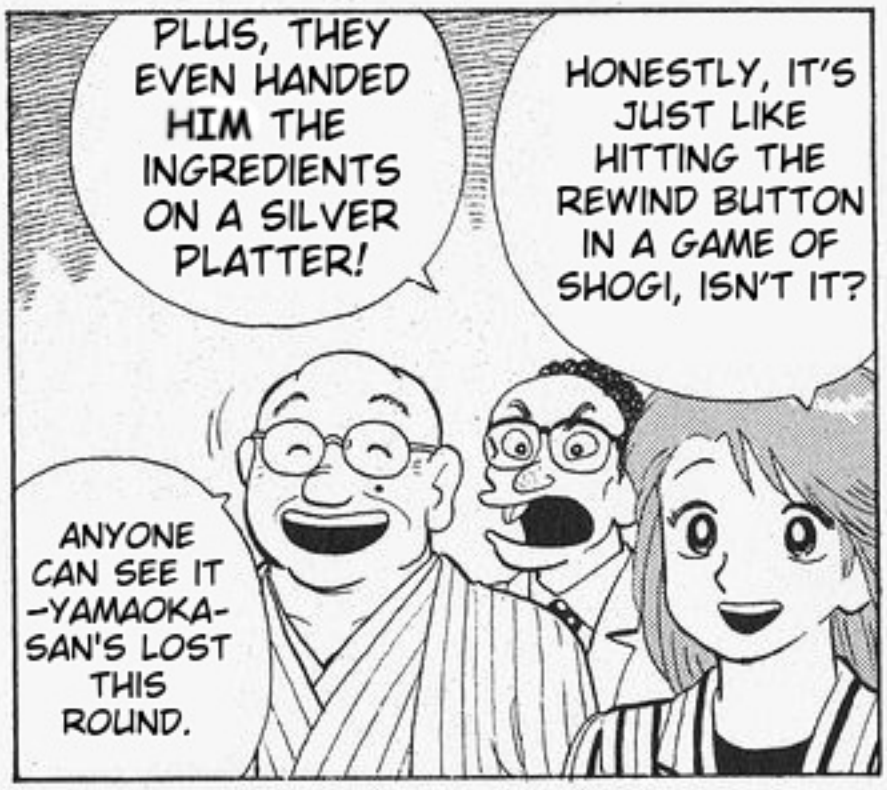

I THINK THE WEEKLY TIME SHOULD DOCUMENT THE ENTIRE JOURNEY AND ULTIMATELY DECLARE IT A DRAW.
HOWEVER, WHEN COMPARING WHAT WAS PUBLISHED ON PAPER, THE MISO-MARINATED YOLK HAD THE EDGE,

UNDERSTOOD!

THIS WILL MAKE FOR AN OUTSTANDING ARTICLE!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15





21

THANKS TO YOU, SHIRO SAVED FACE.

I OWE YOU MY GRATITUDE.

I HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO BE THANKED BY YOU ON HIS ACCOUNT...

22

SHIRO REALLY IS SOMETHING

HEH...

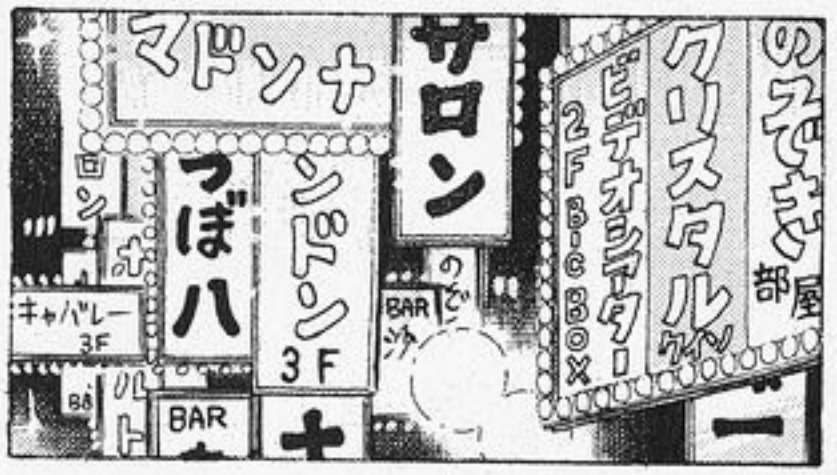
第2話
家族の食卓

I'M HERE FOR THE FAREWELL PARTY OF A COLLEAGUE WHO'S TRANSFERRING, BUT CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS LIVELY ATMOSPHERE EVEN AS THE NIGHT DEEPENS...?

歌舞伎町一番街

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST VISITED SHINJUKU.

I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO WARM UP TO THE STREETS OF KABUKICHO IN SHINJUKU...



SHINJUKU'S KABUKICHO IS A TOWN OF THE PEOPLE, A MARVELOUS PLACE THAT OFFERS RESPITE TO THE WORKING SOULS.

OH COME NOW, THAT'S JUST A PREJUDICE.

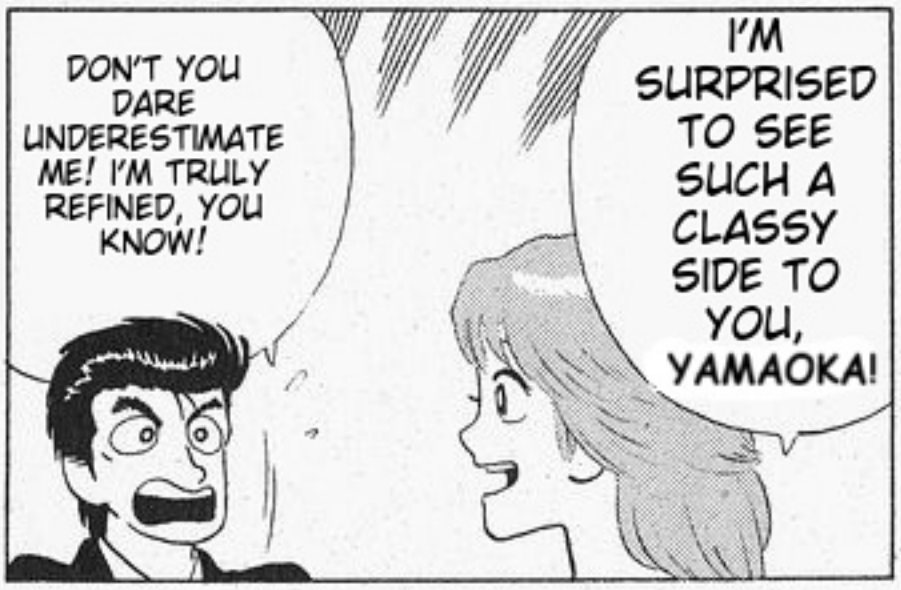
ISN'T THIS VIBRANT CHAOS WHAT MAKES IT SO GREAT?!

EVEN THE MOST PROPER FOLKS TURN INTO SOMETHING QUITE UNSEEMLY WHEN THEY STEP INTO SHINJUKU!

IT'S ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES, PRICKLY, AND OH-SO-SORDID,

DELICIOUS!

YOU'VE HAD A ROUGH TIME IN SHINJUKU, HAVEN'T YOU?!
AHA... I SEE NOW!


DON'T YOU DARE UNDERESTIMATE ME! I'M TRULY REFINED, YOU KNOW!
I'M SURPRISED TO SEE SUCH A CLASSY SIDE TO YOU, YAMAOKA!

ゲーム★センター
TOKYO
GAME PLAZA
NEW GAME
GAME in OKYO
GAME PARADISE

WELL, IT'S POSSIBLE YOU MIGHT HAVE DINED AND DASHED!
GETTING DUMPED BY A GIRL, OR GETTING CAUGHT BY THE COPS WHILE DRUNK...
DON'T MESS WITH ME LIKE THAT!! I'M NOT SOME LOSER!

THAT GIRL, OUT AT THIS HOUR...

SHE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE SOME DELINQUINT, THOUGH.
SHE LOOKS LIKE A KID...

WE'RE KIND OF A BIG DEAL AROUND HERE, I CAN TAKE YOU ANYWHERE YOU WANT!!

HOW ABOUT IT? LET'S HIT UP SOMEWHERE FUN!

NO, I...

HEH HEH, WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, GIRLFRIEND?

NO, STOP IT!!

WHOA, WHOA, ARE YOU TRYING TO RUN AWAY?!

4

COME ON, LET'S GET MOVING!

HEY! SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, YOKO!

DELICIOUS!

COME ON, I'D REALLY APPRECIATE IT! AND THOSE THREE ARE YOKO'S SENIORS!
WOULD YOU GUYS LIKE TO JOIN US? IT'LL BE FUN!

STOP PLAYING DUMB WITH ME!
WHAT THE HECK IS YOUR PROBLEM?!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

YOU GUYS LOOK TOUGH, SO COME ON, JOIN ME TONIGHT!

ONCE THEY START, THEY PICK FIGHTS WITH ANYONE!
I'VE GOT TO ENTERTAIN THOSE THREE WHO'VE BEEN LOOKING AFTER YOKO, BUT THEY'VE GOT A NASTY DRINKING HABIT, YOU KNOW?
THAT'S WHY WE ALWAYS END UP NEEDING A COP AT THE END OF THE NIGHT!

UGH, FORGET IT, I'M OUT!
NO WAY! I'M NOT SIGNING UP FOR ANY EXTRA BAGGAGE!

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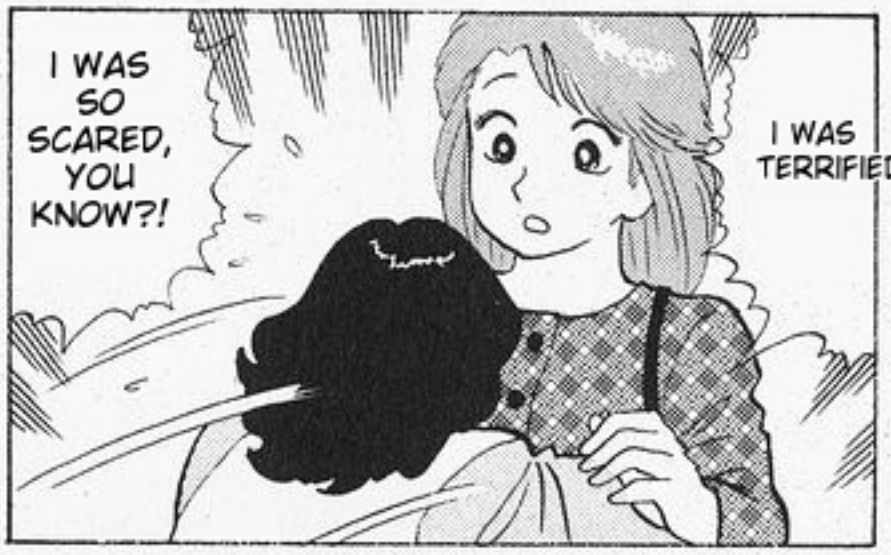
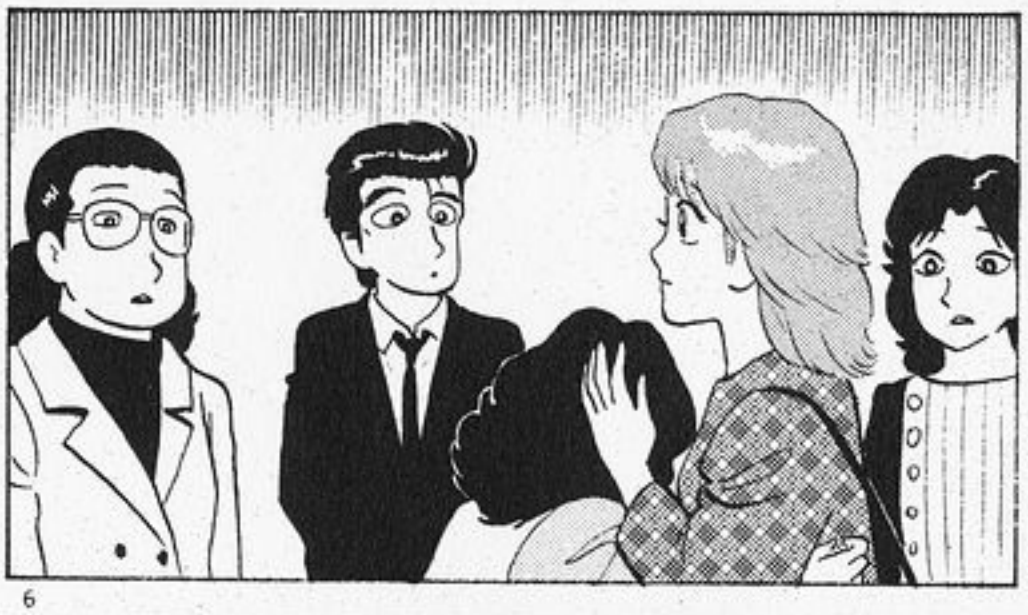
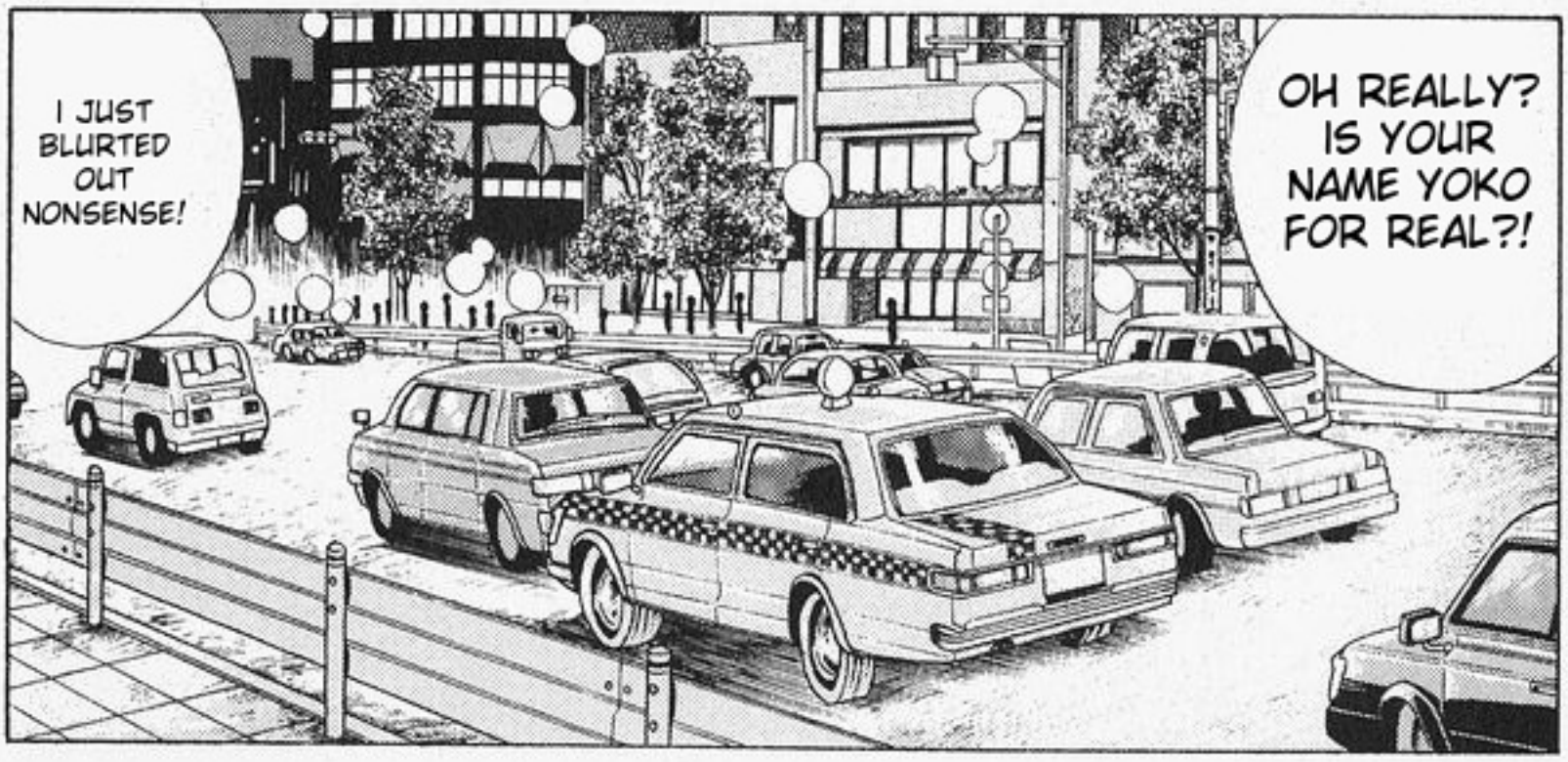
YOU REALLY MANAGED TO SEND THEM PACKING, DIDN'T YOU?!
THAT WAS CLOSE... WASN'T IT?!


I WAS SO SCARED, YOU KNOW?!
I WAS TERRIFIED!!



EVERYTHING'S FINE NOW.
DON'T WORRY!

6


I JUST BLURTED OUT NONSENSE!
OH REALLY? IS YOUR NAME YOKO FOR REAL?!

DELICIOUS!

BUT WHY WERE YOU OUT SO LATE IN A PLACE LIKE THAT?
YES, THAT'S WHY I WAS SO TAKEN ABACK EARLIER!
I...
I THOUGHT ABOUT GOING OFF THE RAILS.
UM... I CAN'T QUITE WRAP MY HEAD AROUND THAT.
I BELIEVE THAT WOULD HELP YOU UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL.
UH... IF YOU'RE REALLY WILLING TO LEND AN EAR, COULD YOU PLEASE COME TO MY HOUSE AND MEET MY PARENTS?
MY PARENTS ARE ALL PRIM AND PROPER, ACTING SO DISTANT.
MY HOME IS SO DULL, IT'S LIKE AN ICEBOX...
THEY'RE JUST PUTTING ON AIRS...

OH, SO YOUR MOTHER IS THE FAMOUS YOSHINO MIKO?!

AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR FATHER'S WORK?

HMM... WE'RE ALREADY IN THIS BOAT, LET'S MEET THEM.

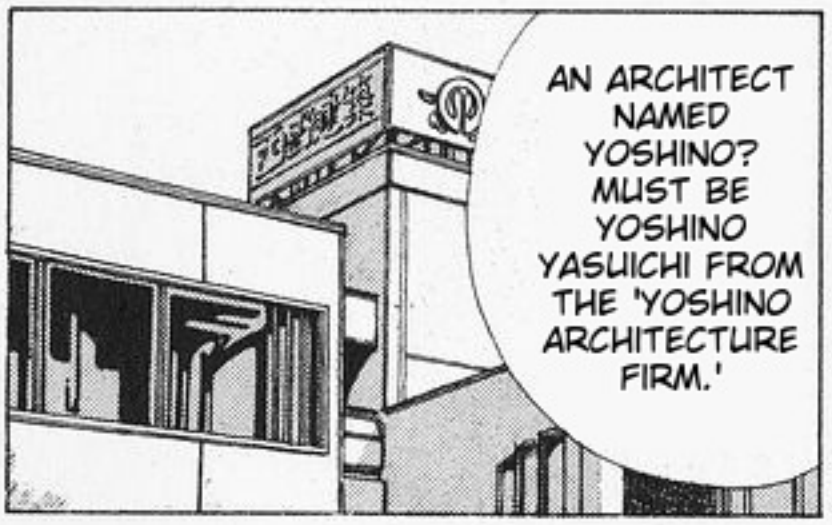
IT'S CALLED 'MINA CULINARY ACADEMY.'

MY DAD'S AN ARCHITECT, AND MY MOM'S THE HEAD OF A CULINARY ACADEMY.

THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.

IS THIS A REACTION TO HOW EXTRAORDINARY YOUR PARENTS ARE?

PEOPLE SAY MY PARENTS ARE IMPRESSIVE, BUT TO ME, THEY DON'T SEEM IMPRESSIVE AT ALL.



AN ARCHITECT NAMED YOSHINO? MUST BE YOSHINO YASUICHI FROM THE 'YOSHINO ARCHITECTURE FIRM.'

TO THINK YOU'D DARE TO REBEL WITH SUCH REMARKABLE PARENTS...

8

THAT SOUNDS COMPLICATED.

HMM...

I FIND THEM RATHER DULL AND LONELY SOULS.

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WITH MY CULINARY PURSUITS.

YOKO IS WORRIED THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME CHILL IN YOUR MARRIAGE.

I CAN'T SPEND AS MUCH TIME WITH YOKO AS I'D LIKE...

INDEED, I AM BUSY,

UNFORTUNATELY, MY TIME AT HOME IS BECOMING QUITE SCARCE.

I'M ALSO FULLY COMMITTED TO RUNNING THE CULINARY ACADEMY.

THERE'S NO WAY OUR LOVE AS A COUPLE HAS GROWN COLD.

MY HUSBAND IS RIGHT, THE WAY A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL PERCEIVES LOVE IS WORLDS APART FROM HOW ADULTS DO.

AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF MARRIAGE, ISN'T IT TRUE THAT MOST COUPLES ARE LIKE THAT?

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE THINGS CAN BE AS SWEET AS THEY WERE WHEN WE FIRST GOT MARRIED.

I MAKE IT A POINT TO HAVE DINNER WITH YOKO AT LEAST TWICE A WEEK.

EVEN SO, WE ARE PUTTING IN QUITE A BIT OF EFFORT FOR YOKO'S SAKE.

I THOUGHT BOTH MY HUSBAND AND I WERE WORKING HARD ENOUGH FOR HER TO SEE THAT...

BUT YOKO HAS THIS SHARP SENSITIVITY THAT ONLY A GIRL HER AGE POSSESSES, AND SHE'S PICKING UP ON SOMETHING.

I HAD NO IDEA SHE WAS FEELING THAT WAY...

I HAD NOTICED THAT YOKO SEEMED A BIT OFF LATELY, BUT...

10

TODAY, YOKO IS AT MY PARENTS' HOUSE.

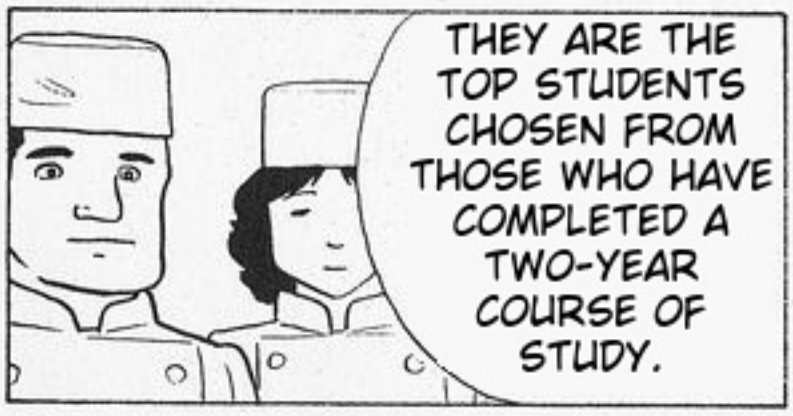
YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN US...

EXCUSE ME, THE MEAL IS READY.

OH, RIGHT, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.

DELICIOUS!

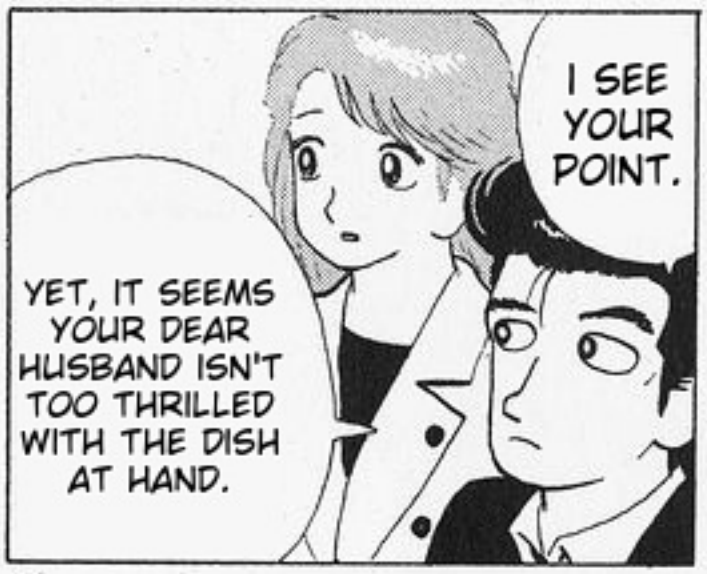
11



I THINK IT'S VERY GOOD. WELL DONE!

MAY I HAVE YOUR FEEDBACK, PLEASE?
SENSEI, WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?

DON'T YOU WANT TO HEAR YOUR HUSBAND'S THOUGHTS?


I SEE YOUR POINT.
YET, IT SEEMS YOUR DEAR HUSBAND ISN'T TOO THRILLED WITH THE DISH AT HAND.

WELL, DARLING, THIS IS MY DOMAIN; IT DOESN'T CONCERN HIM AT ALL.
MY HUSBAND?

FIRST AND FOREMOST, THE CABBAGE IS BOILED TO MUSH -IT'S SO SOFT IT LACKS ANY CRUNCH, AND THE FLAVOR IS JUST NONEXISTENT.
I WASN'T IMPRESSED EITHER.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T FACTOR IN THE ADDITIONAL STEAMING AFTER WRAPPING THE FOIE GRAS, AND LOOK WHERE THAT GOT US!

I WASN'T TOO IMPRESSED, TO BE HONEST.
UH, WELL....

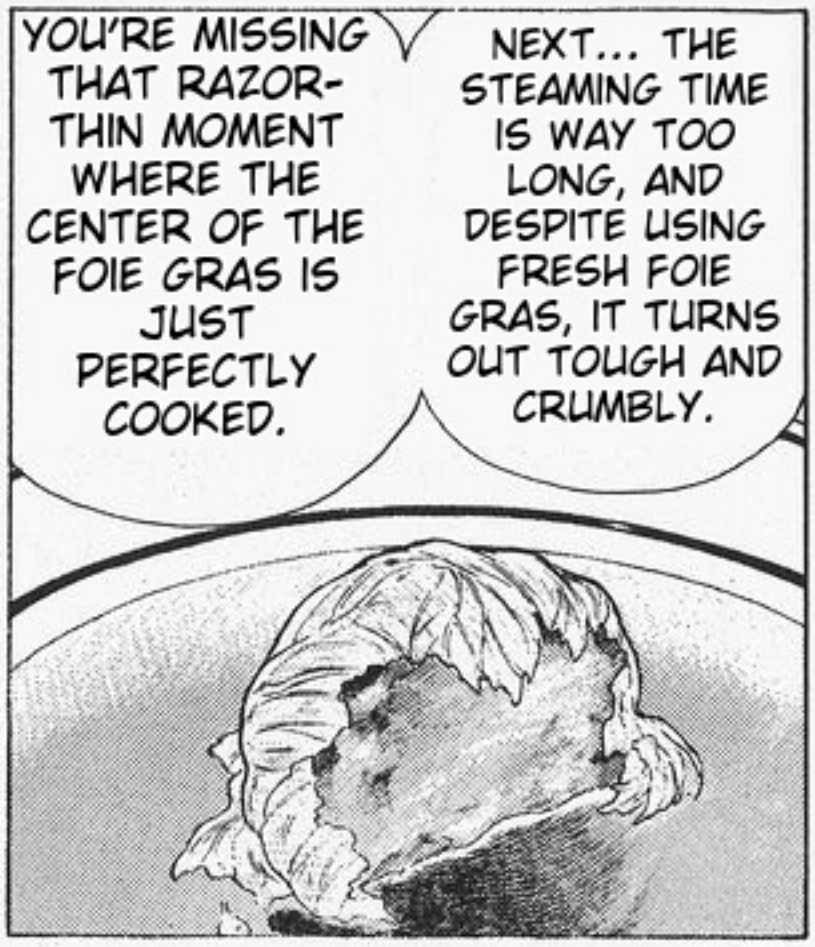
REALLY?

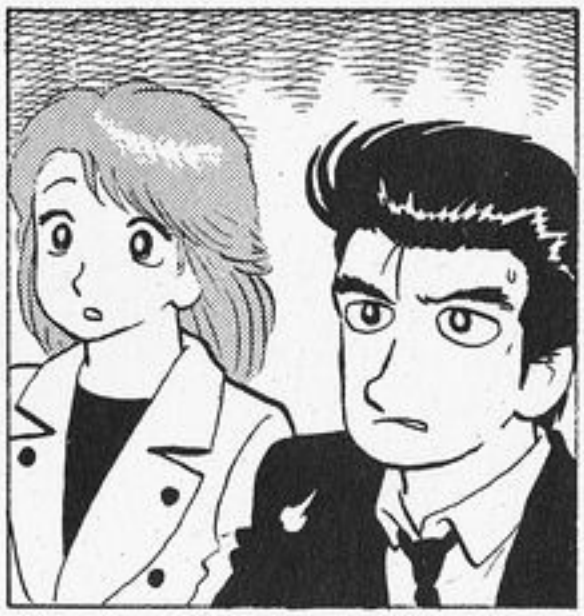
WHAT EXACTLY DIDN'T IMPRESS YOU?

DELICIOUS!

OH... UH...

OH MY!
I COMPLETELY AGREE, I THOUGHT THE SAME THING.


YOU'RE MISSING THAT RAZOR-THIN MOMENT WHERE THE CENTER OF THE FOIE GRAS IS JUST PERFECTLY COOKED.
NEXT... THE STEAMING TIME IS WAY TOO LONG, AND DESPITE USING FRESH FOIE GRAS, IT TURNS OUT TOUGH AND CRUMBLY.



NO, BUT THAT'S NOT REALLY MY AREA TO ADDRESS.

WELL THEN, WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL THAT TO YOUR WIFE?

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
WHAT?

WITH THIS, IT'S NO WONDER YOKO-SAN FEELS LIKE THROWING A TANTRUM.
I FINALLY GET WHAT SHE MEANT...

WHEN PARENTS ARE AT ODDS, A CHILD LOSES HOPE IN RELATIONSHIPS, STRUGGLES TO CULTIVATE THE CAPACITY TO LOVE, AND ENDS UP LACKING IN SOME VITAL ASPECT OF THEIR CHARACTER.

FOR A CHILD, PARENTS ARE THE VERY FOUNDATION OF HUMAN CONNECTION.

I'VE FELT IT TOO— THE STRAIN OF PARENTS WHO CAN'T GET ALONG.

THE DEEPEST WOUNDS A CHILD CAN BEAR COME FROM,

.....

WHAT I LONGED FOR ABOVE ALL WASN'T SWEET TREATS OR POCKET MONEY. IT WAS THE WARMTH OF CARING PARENTS.

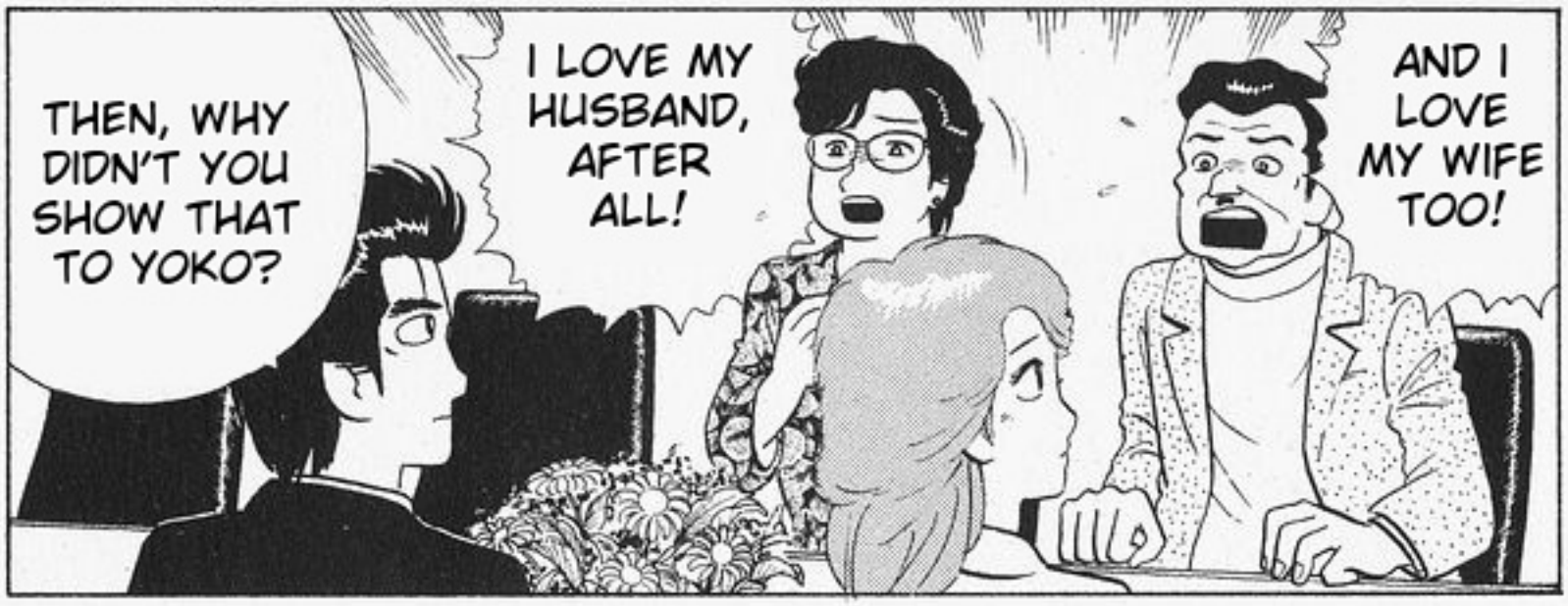
MY FATHER SUBJECTED MY MOTHER TO UNFORGIVING CRUELTY, SACRIFICING HER ON THE ALTAR OF HIS ART AND CULINARY PASSIONS, NEVER SPARING A GLANCE BACK.

14

WHAT I WITNESSED AT TONIGHT'S DINNER WAS A COUPLE LOST IN THEIR OWN WORLDS, OBLIVIOUS TO EACH OTHER'S NEEDS AND FEELINGS.

WHAT YOKO DESIRES MOST RIGHT NOW IS THE AFFECTIONATE BOND BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU.

DELICIOUS!

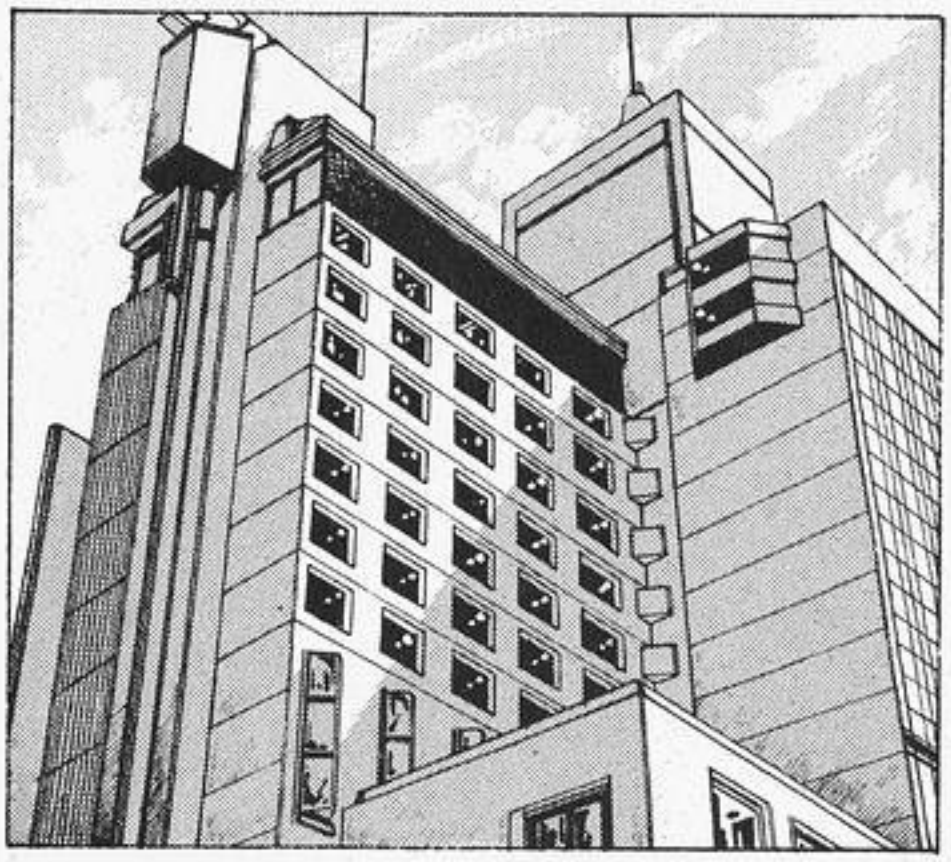

THEN, WHY DIDN'T YOU SHOW THAT TO YOKO?
I LOVE MY HUSBAND, AFTER ALL!
AND I LOVE MY WIFE TOO!

SO, JUST SHOWING THAT YOU BOTH HAVE INTEREST AND RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S WORK CAN REALLY GO A LONG WAY,
I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL FOR YOU BOTH TO SHOWCASE YOUR DEDICATION TO YOUR JOBS.
I BELIEVE IT WOULD WARM HER HEART.

WELL, THAT'S...;

YOU'RE RIGHT, WE'VE BEEN SO ABSORBED IN OUR OWN WORK...

.....



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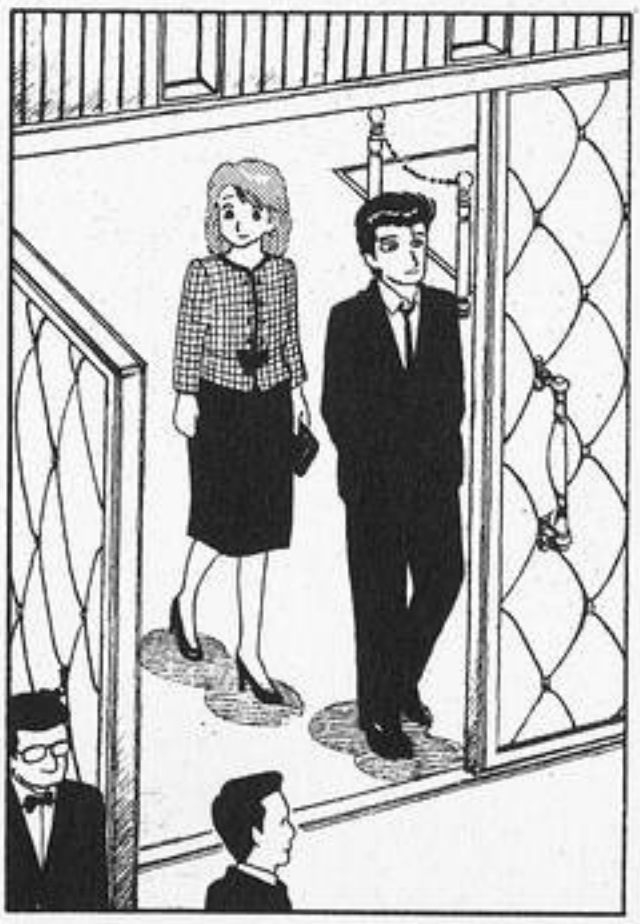
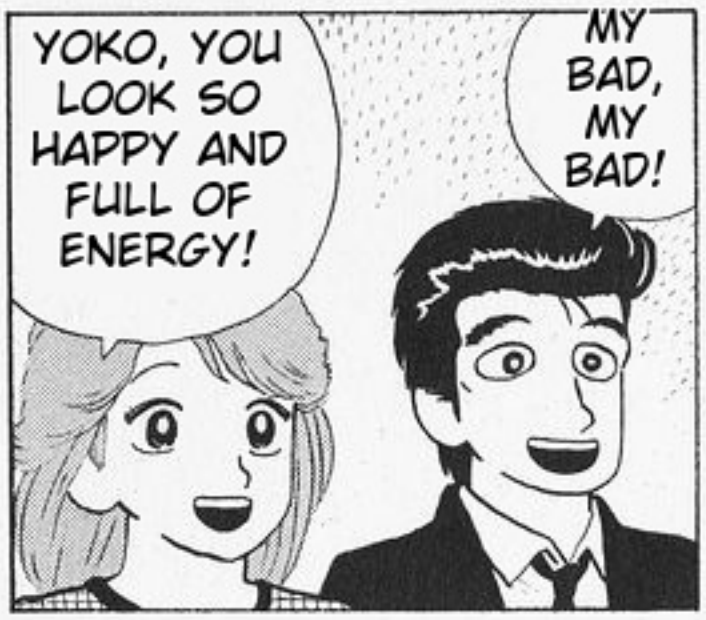


DELICIOUS!



17

THE EMPHASIS ON DIETARY HABITS EMBEDDED IN THE RESIDENTIAL DESIGN LEFT A PROFOUND IMPACT ON ALL THE JUDGES.

ESPECIALLY IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY,

INDEED, YOSHINO-KUN'S HOME OFFERS A GLIMPSE INTO HOW THE PEOPLE OF TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY JAPAN SHOULD LIVE.

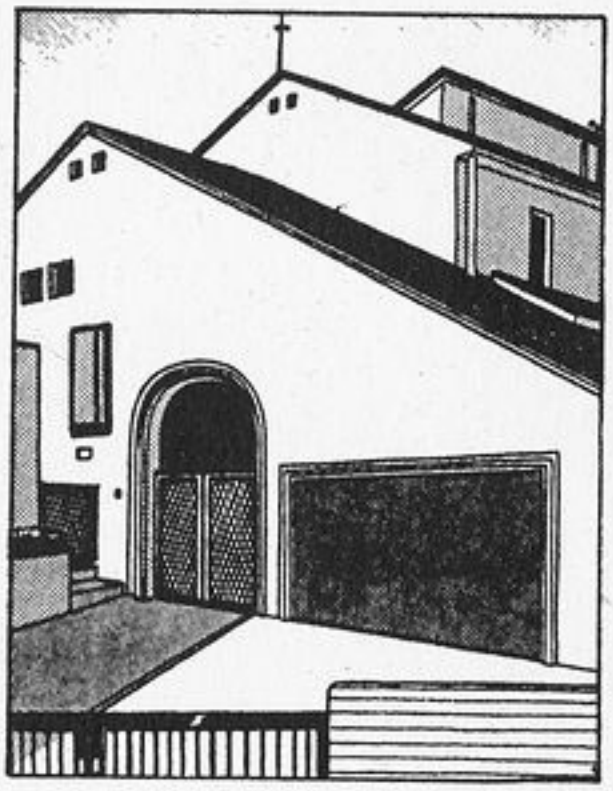
LET US NOT FORGET THE PIVOTAL ROLE PLAYED BY MRS. YOSHINO IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE KITCHEN AND THE DINING AREA WAS A PUZZLE THAT COULD ONLY BE UNRAVELED WITH THE INVALUABLE SUPPORT OF THE ESTEEMED HEAD OF THE CULINARY ACADEMY, MRS. YOSHINO.

DELICIOUS!

THIS AWARD, IN A SENSE, IS A GRAND TRIBUTE BESTOWED UPON THE ILLUSTRIOUS YOSHINO COUPLE!

NOW, LET'S FIRE UP THOSE SPARE RIBS!



IN AMERICA, THEY JUST THROW THE WHOLE SIDE OF RIBS ONTO THE GRILL, BONES AND ALL!

WOW, THAT'S INCREDIBLE!
I ONLY KNEW SPARE RIBS AS THOSE NEATLY CUT, SINGLE BONES!

SUCH A BOLD APPROACH!

DELICIOUS!

21

AND WINNING WOULD BE WAY MORE FUN THAN SNAGGING AN ARCHITECTURE CULTURE AWARD!

ACTUALLY, I'M PREPARING TO ENTER THE NATIONAL SPARE RIB CONTEST IN CHICAGO NEXT MONTH...

HMM, I DON'T MIND BEING SWEET-TALKED AT ALL!

WELL, WELL, I'VE COME ARMED WITH DRINKS TO SMOOTH THINGS OVER!

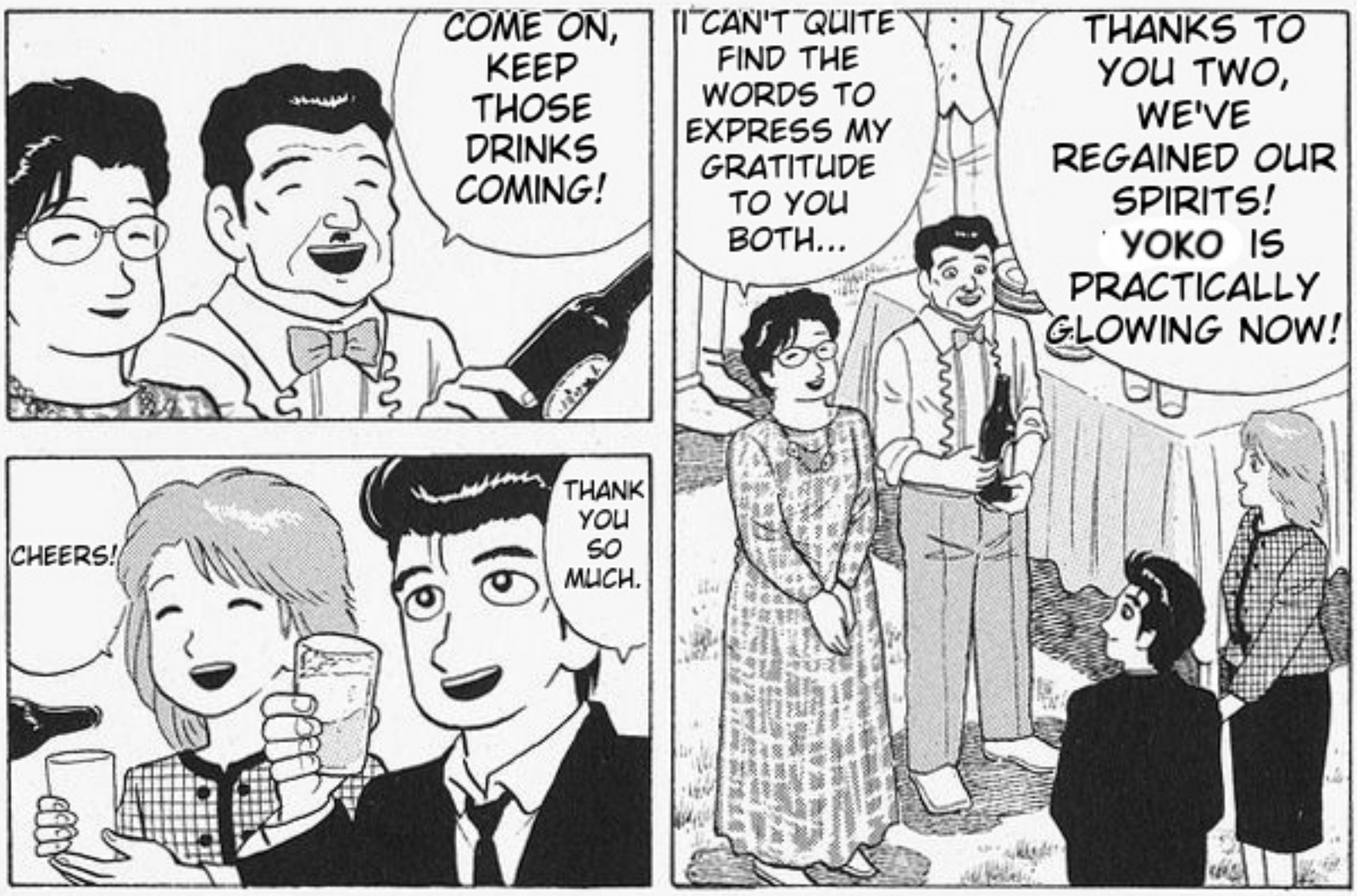
AH, YES! ENLISTING BRO'S HELP, HOW CLEVER!

BUT HEY, THIS FLAVOR MAGIC IS THANKS TO YOUR WIFE, THAT'S A BIT UNFAIR!

I'LL SPILL THE BEANS TO THE CONTEST COMMITTEE!

22

DELICIOUS!



23

THAT'S TERRIBLE!
WHAT?! US?
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I WON'T FORGIVE THIS!
YEAH?! THAT WAS A TOTAL LIE!
I SAID THAT TO SAVE YOKO-SAN FROM THOSE THUGS!
IT CAN'T BE HELPED!

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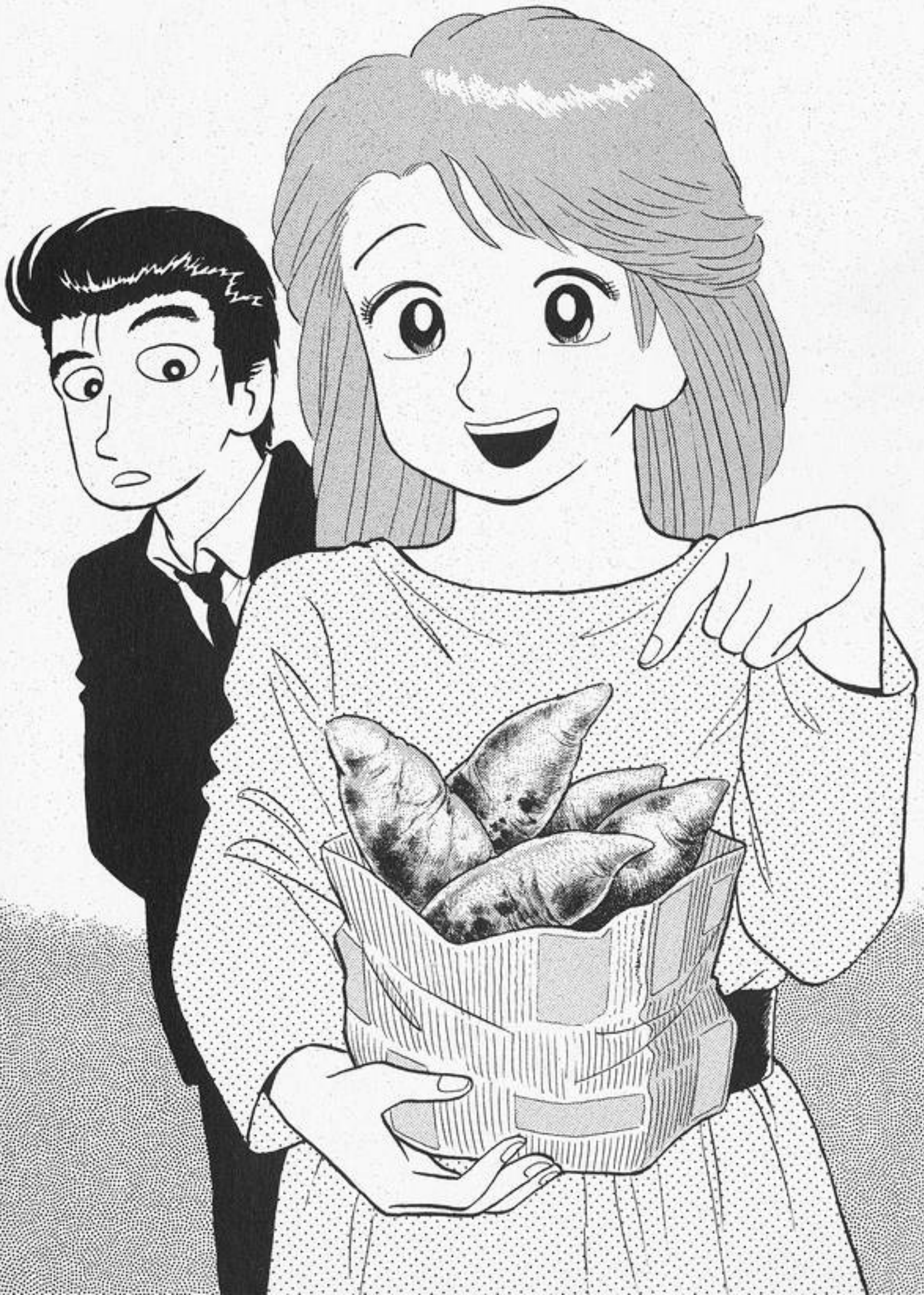


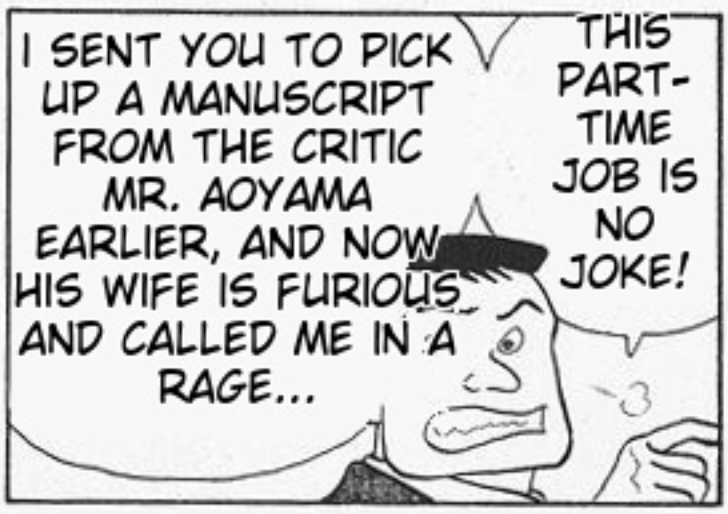
東西新聞社
SO, WHERE DID YOU PUT IT? DID YOU LOSE IT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY?!

LISTEN UP, YOU BETTER PAY ATTENTION!
HEY, DON'T MESS WITH ME! I'VE GOT A MILLION THINGS TO JUGGLE HERE!

2

AND SNATCHED THE MANUSCRIPT BAG WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A GREETING!
AT THE ENTRANCE, YOU JUST BLURTED OUT 'EAST-WEST NEWS' IN THE MOST CURT MANNER,
WELL...

WHAT'S GOING ON?


I SENT YOU TO PICK UP A MANUSCRIPT FROM THE CRITIC MR. AOYAMA EARLIER, AND NOW HIS WIFE IS FURIOUS AND CALLED ME IN A RAGE...
THIS PART-TIME JOB IS NO JOKE!

DELICIOUS!

AND WHILE I'M AWAY, THEY COME BACK TO THE OFFICE,
AND WHEN I ASK ABOUT THE MANUSCRIPT, THEY JUST POINT TO THIS TABLE, LEAVING ME CLUELESS ABOUT WHERE IT IS!
THIS ISN'T IT?
OH, HERE IT IS!
I THINK I MIGHT BE MEDDLING TOO MUCH.
I REALLY DON'T LIKE IT, BUT THIS PART-TIME WORKER BARELY SAYS A WORD!
THIS IS JUST RIDICULOUS.
3
OH MY?!
WHAT IS WRONG WITH THAT KID?

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WHAT ON EARTH WERE YOU THINKING, NOT SAYING A SINGLE WORD TO THE CUSTOMERS?!!

NEC

YOU'RE FIRED, FIRED, I SAY!!

YOU'RE COMPLETELY USELESS, YOU KNOW THAT?!

WAIT... ISN'T THAT THE YOUNG MAN WHO WAS WORKING PART-TIME AT OUR PLACE THE OTHER DAY?!

4

I SAW EVERYTHING.

OH DEAR... SO YOU GOT FIRED FROM THAT PLACE, HUH...

HEY THERE!

DELICIOUS!

HEY! WAIT!
WHERE IS HE GOING?

ISN'T THAT THE ROOT OF ALL YOUR TROUBLES?
HEY, WHAT ON EARTH IS STOPPING YOU FROM LISTENING TO ME?

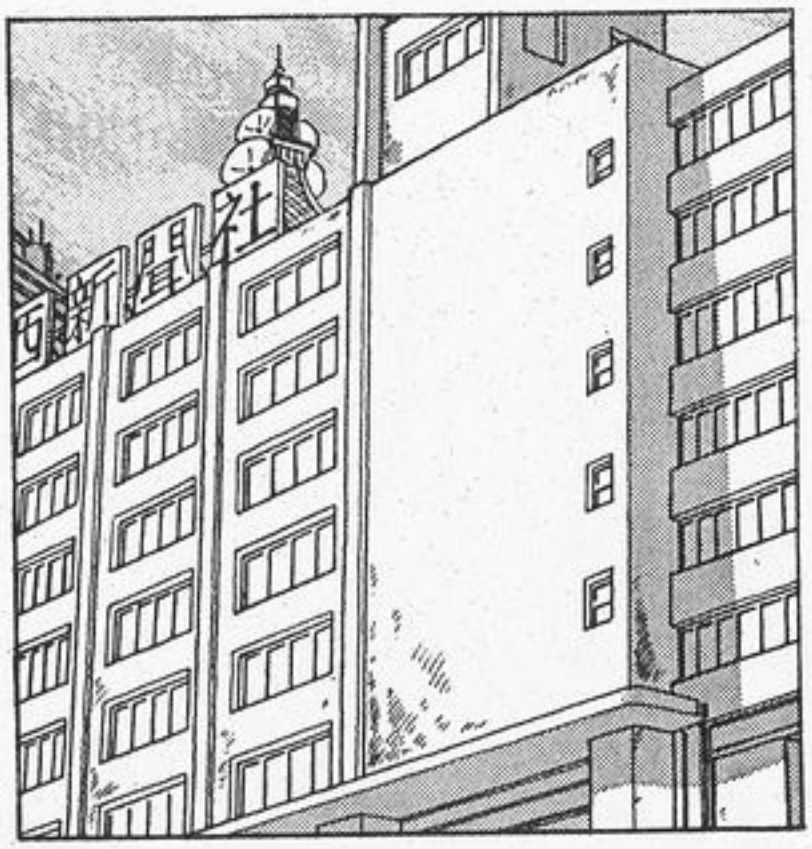
COME ON, SPILL THE BEANS! I'M HERE TO HELP YOU OUT.

.....

I JUST CAN'T WRAP MY HEAD AROUND THIS...

5

OH MY, LOOK AT THAT PERSON...


西新聞社

THIS IS, UM, ABOUT... WELL, I WAS HOPING TO CONSULT WITH YOU, IF THAT'S OKAY.

OH, UM...

LOOKING TO CONSULT ABOUT SOMETHING, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN REALLY DO IT, YOU KNOW?

I'M, UH,

WOULD YOU MIND SLOWING DOWN? YOUR ACCENT...

THAT'S FINE, BUT WOW, YOU HAVE QUITE THE ACCENT!

THAT'S ALRIGHT.

6

I'M AIMING FOR MY SECOND SHOT AT UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMS, SO I'M TAKING A GAP YEAR, YOU SEE...

I HAIL FROM IWATE, BY THE WAY.

DELICIOUS!

YEAH, I REALLY NEED A PART-TIME JOB... CAN'T KEEP PILING ON THE BURDEN AT HOME, YOU KNOW...
BUT... NO MATTER WHERE I WORK, IT FEELS LIKE EVERYONE'S JUST LAUGHING AT ME.
I'M AFRAID OF SOUNDING SILLY...
WHO CARES IF THEY LAUGH AT YOU? IT'S NO BIG DEAL!
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU YOUNGSTERS TALKING LIKE THAT?!
WELL, I WAS BORN WITH THIS EMBARRASSING SHYNESS...
EVERYONE'S LAUGHING AT ME, IT JUST FEELS SO HOPELESS...
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'VE GOT SUCH A PURE HEART, AMANO-KUN.
TCH. BIG DEAL. HE NEEDS SOME TENACITY.
IF I COULD, I'D BREW SOME UP AND SERVE IT TO HIM.
SHUT IT!
YOU JERK!
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ンギャ

I BELIEVE THAT'S ONE OF THE WONDERS OF JAPANESE CULTURE.

JAPAN MAY BE A SMALL COUNTRY, YET IT BOASTS AN INCREDIBLE VARIETY OF DIALECTS.

DIALECTS ARE PRECIOUS TREASURES THAT CONVEY THE CULTURE OF THEIR LAND.

EVERYONE, SHARING OUR STORIES REALLY LIFTS MY SPIRITS!!

YES!

WE SHOULD TAKE PRIDE IN OUR ANCESTORS WHO CRAFTED THIS MAGNIFICENT TAPESTRY OF LANGUAGE!

TO LAUGH AT YOUR WORDS IS THE FOLLY OF THOSE WHO JUST CAN'T GRASP THE BEAUTY OF CULTURE.

8

ABSOLUTELY! WHILE TOHOKU FOLK SONGS ARE FILLED WITH GEMS, IF SOMEONE WHO CAN'T SPEAK THE TOHOKU DIALECT TRIES TO SING, IT'S JUST A JOKE!

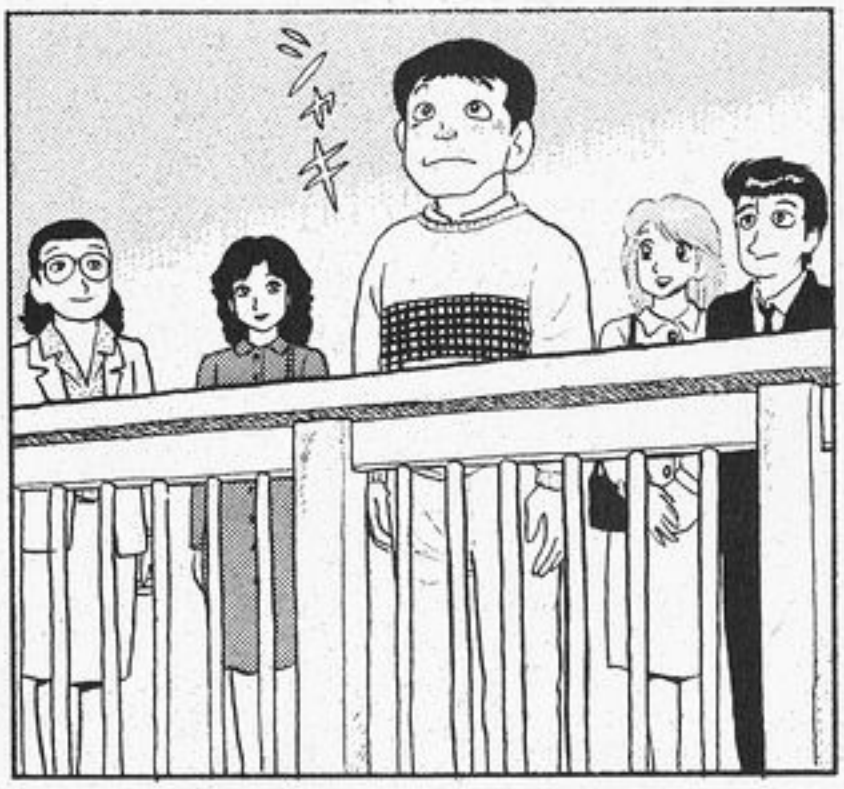
PLUS, THE TOHOKU DIALECT HAS A WEALTH OF VOWELS AND CONSONANTS, FAR SURPASSING STANDARD JAPANESE—IT'S TRULY MUSICAL!

DELICIOUS!

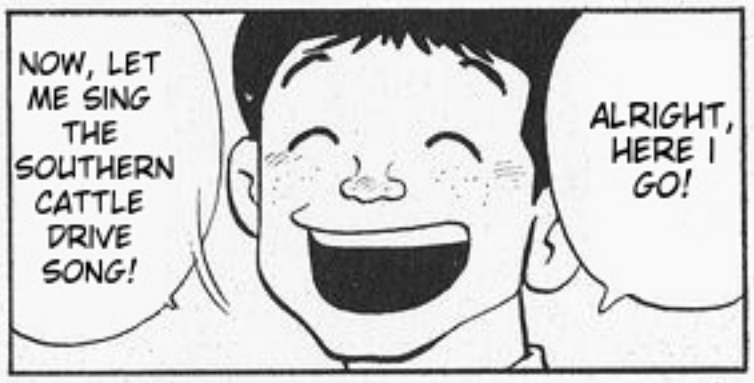
WOW! THAT'S AMAZING!
SING SOMETHING FOR US!

I-I'VE ACTUALLY WON A FOLK SONG FESTIVAL BEFORE!

THEY'RE JUST SO DEEPLY EMOTIONAL AND RICH...
I ABSOLUTELY LOVE FOLK SONGS FROM TOHOKU.

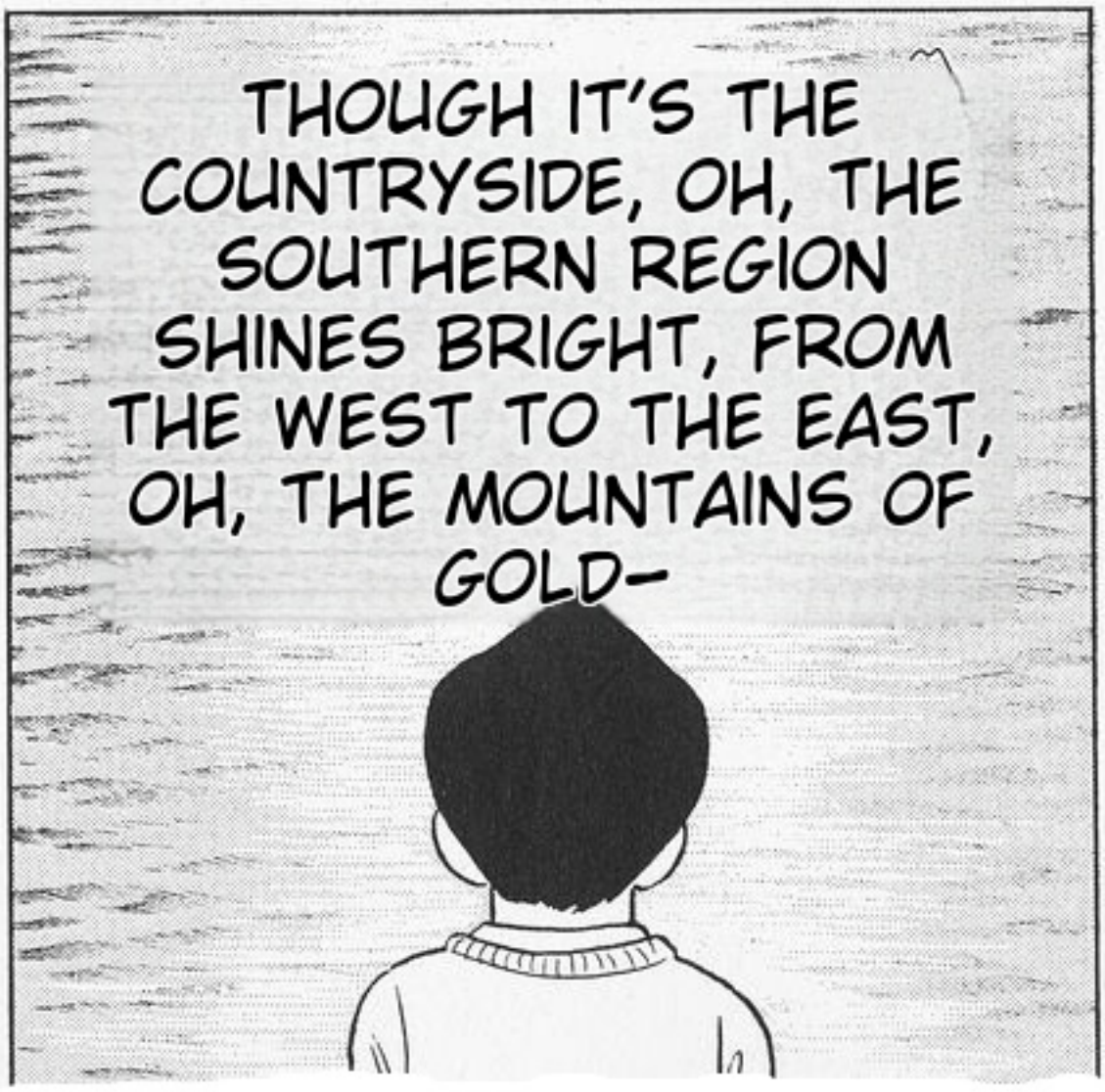


THIS IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO LET YOUR VOICE SOAR!

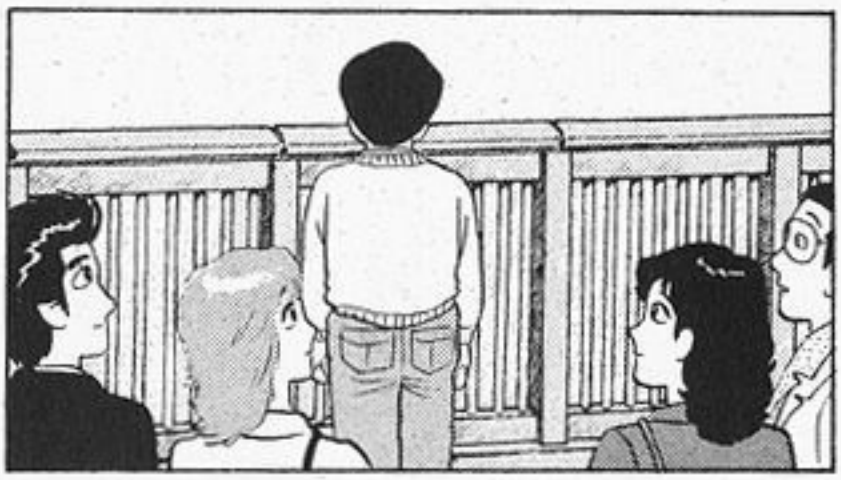

NOW, LET ME SING THE SOUTHERN CATTLE DRIVE SONG!
ALRIGHT, HERE I GO!

9

WELL... IT'S SURPRISING TO SEE SHY LITTLE AMANO-KUN, WHO ALWAYS SEEMS SO TIMID,
STANDING TALL, BRIMMING WITH CONFIDENCE...


THOUGH IT'S THE COUNTRYSIDE, OH, THE SOUTHERN REGION SHINES BRIGHT, FROM THE WEST TO THE EAST, OH, THE MOUNTAINS OF GOLD-

...NEXT TIME YOU COME, BRING ME SOME OF THOSE DEEP MOUNTAIN LEAVES FROM THE SAAHAA, OKAY?



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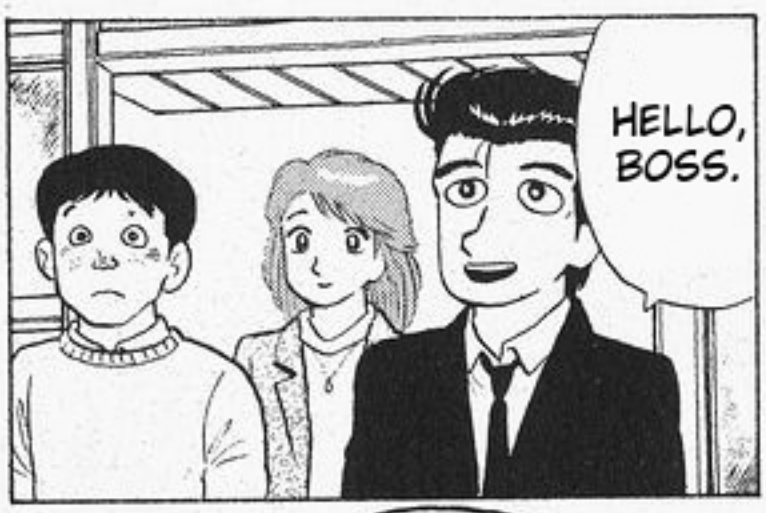
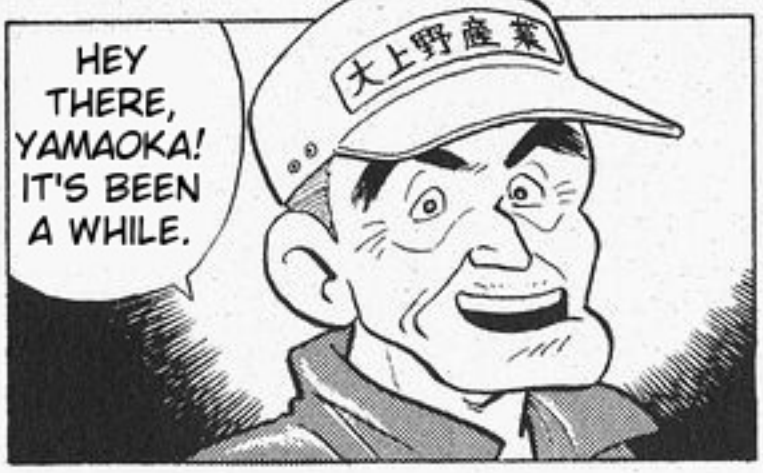
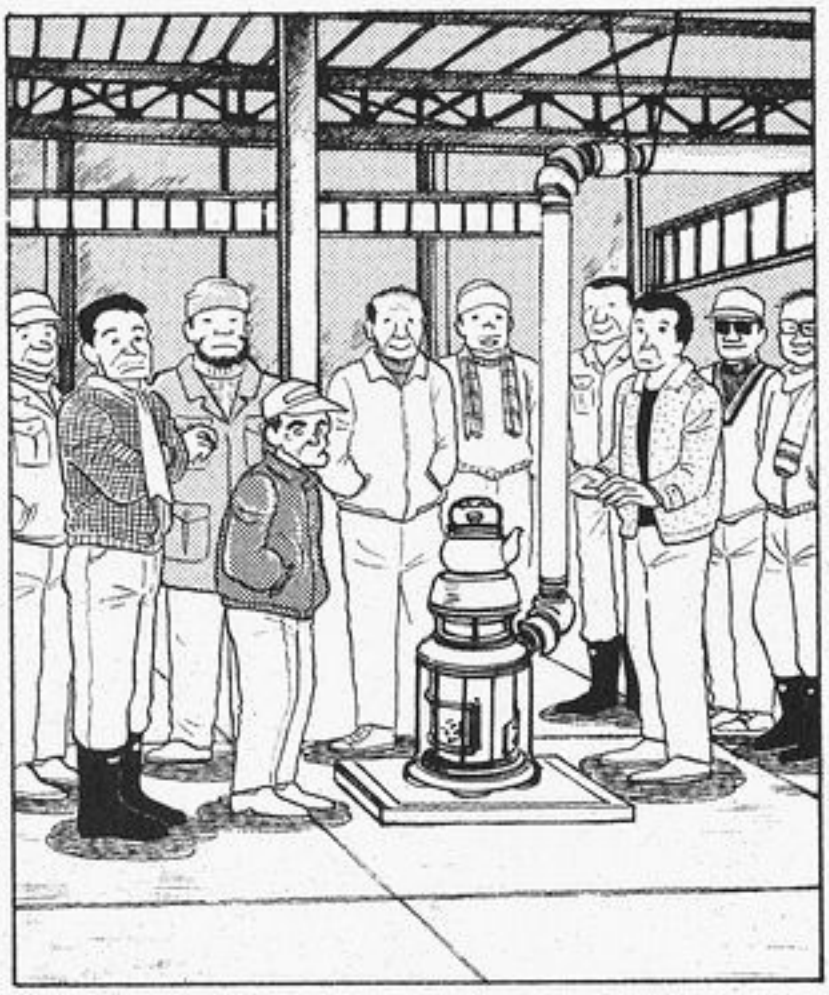

HELLO, BOSS.


HEY THERE, YAMAOKA! IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
大上野産業



11

AND YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN GOOD SHAPE...
HMM, YOU SEEM QUITE SERIOUS.

Y-YES, I'M IN GREAT SHAPE!

I'M TOSHIO AMANO, PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE!
THIS IS AMANO-KUN, THE ONE I CALLED ABOUT.

PLEASURE TO MEET YOU!

YO!

HELLO THERE!

HEY EVERYONE, MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER, AMANO-KUN!

WELL, LET ME SHOW YOU THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE; COME ON OVER HERE!

ABSOLUTELY!

OH, THOSE FOLKS ALL HAVE THAT CHARMING TOHOKU ACCENT...

I'M AMANO! NICE TO MEET YOU ALL, AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!

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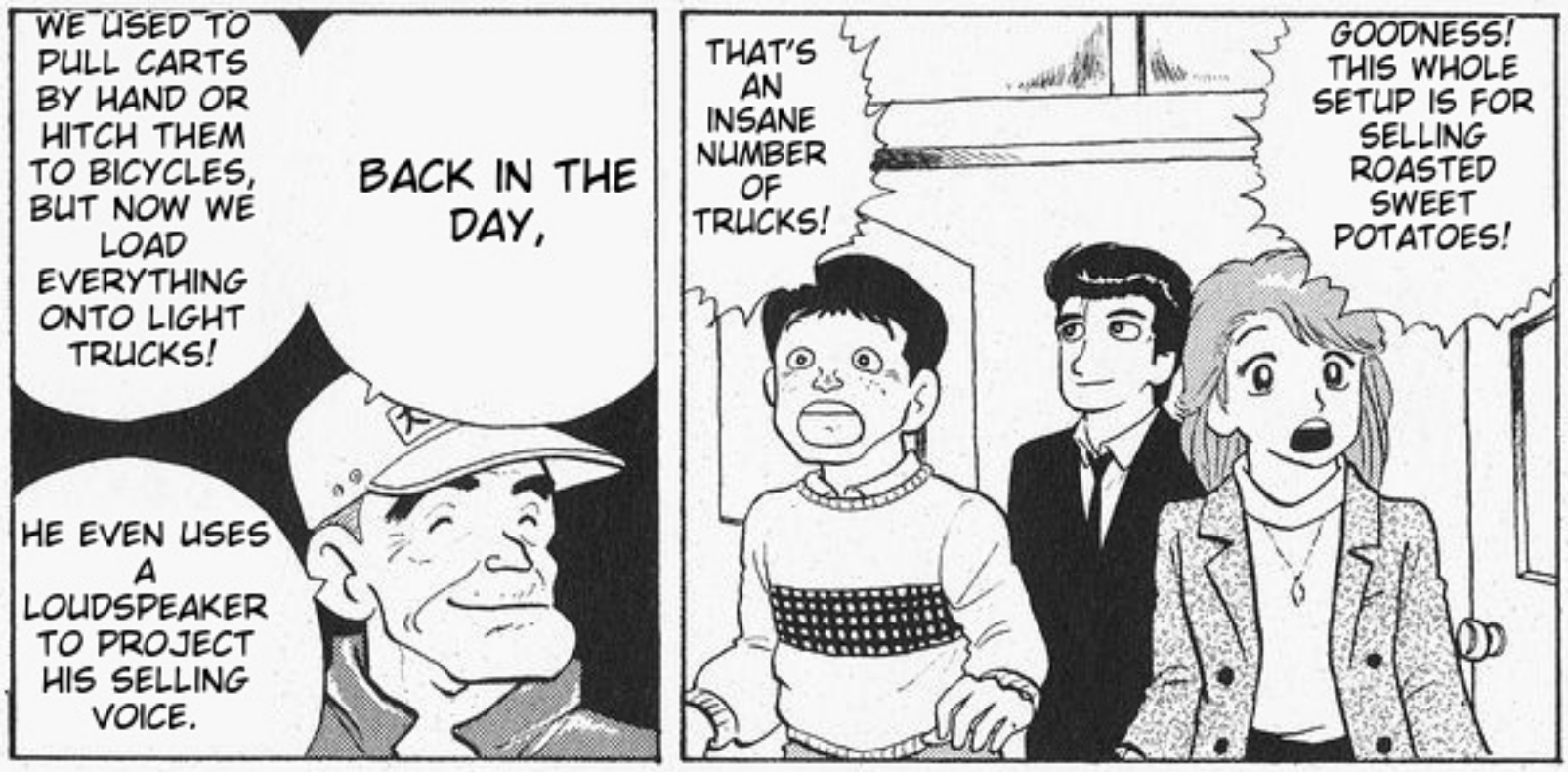
石焼芋 ふるさとの味

FRESH SWEET POTATOES

石焼き芋

DELICIOUS!


WE USED TO PULL CARTS BY HAND OR HITCH THEM TO BICYCLES, BUT NOW WE LOAD EVERYTHING ONTO LIGHT TRUCKS!
BACK IN THE DAY,
HE EVEN USES A LOUDSPEAKER TO PROJECT HIS SELLING VOICE.
THAT'S AN INSANE NUMBER OF TRUCKS!
GOODNESS! THIS WHOLE SETUP IS FOR SELLING ROASTED SWEET POTATOES!
IN THE WINTER, FARMING IS TOUGH UP THERE, SO THE SEASON FOR SELLING ROASTED SWEET POTATOES ALIGNS PERFECTLY, BRINGING LOADS OF WORKERS TO US.
WELL... NOT EVERYONE, BUT MORE THAN HALF ARE FROM TOHOKU.
HE'S THE HEAD HONCHO OF THE ROASTED SWEET POTATO VENDORS, AND LOOK AT ALL THESE TRUCKS HE'S GOT!
MR. OUE-NO HAS BEEN IN THIS GAME FOR FORTY YEARS, A TRUE LEGEND,
WOW! SO THOSE FOLKS ARE ALSO FROM TOHOKU!
13
HUH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
WAIT A SECOND! I DIDN'T SUGGEST YOU TAKE A ROASTED SWEET POTATO JOB WITH SUCH A LACKLUSTER APPROACH!
IF EVERYONE AROUND ME IS FROM TOHOKU, IT MAKES THINGS A LOT EASIER FOR ME.

WELL, YOU WON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU GIVE IT A SHOT.

?

HAHA, YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

AH... BUT I DON'T HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE.

AND THAT MELODIC, SPLENDID TONE CAN ONLY BE PRODUCED BY SOMEONE FLUENT IN THE TOHOKU DIALECT.

THAT VOICE OF YOURS IS SOMETHING SPECIAL.

NOW GO AHEAD AND SING OUT THE SALES PITCH FOR THOSE ROASTED SWEET POTATOES!

FROM THE VILLAGE TO THE FIELDS, SEVEN MILES, AND THREE-AND-A HALF OF DIRT!

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SEE, THIS IS THE VERY CART WHERE I USED TO SELL MY STONE-BAKED SWEET POTATOES.

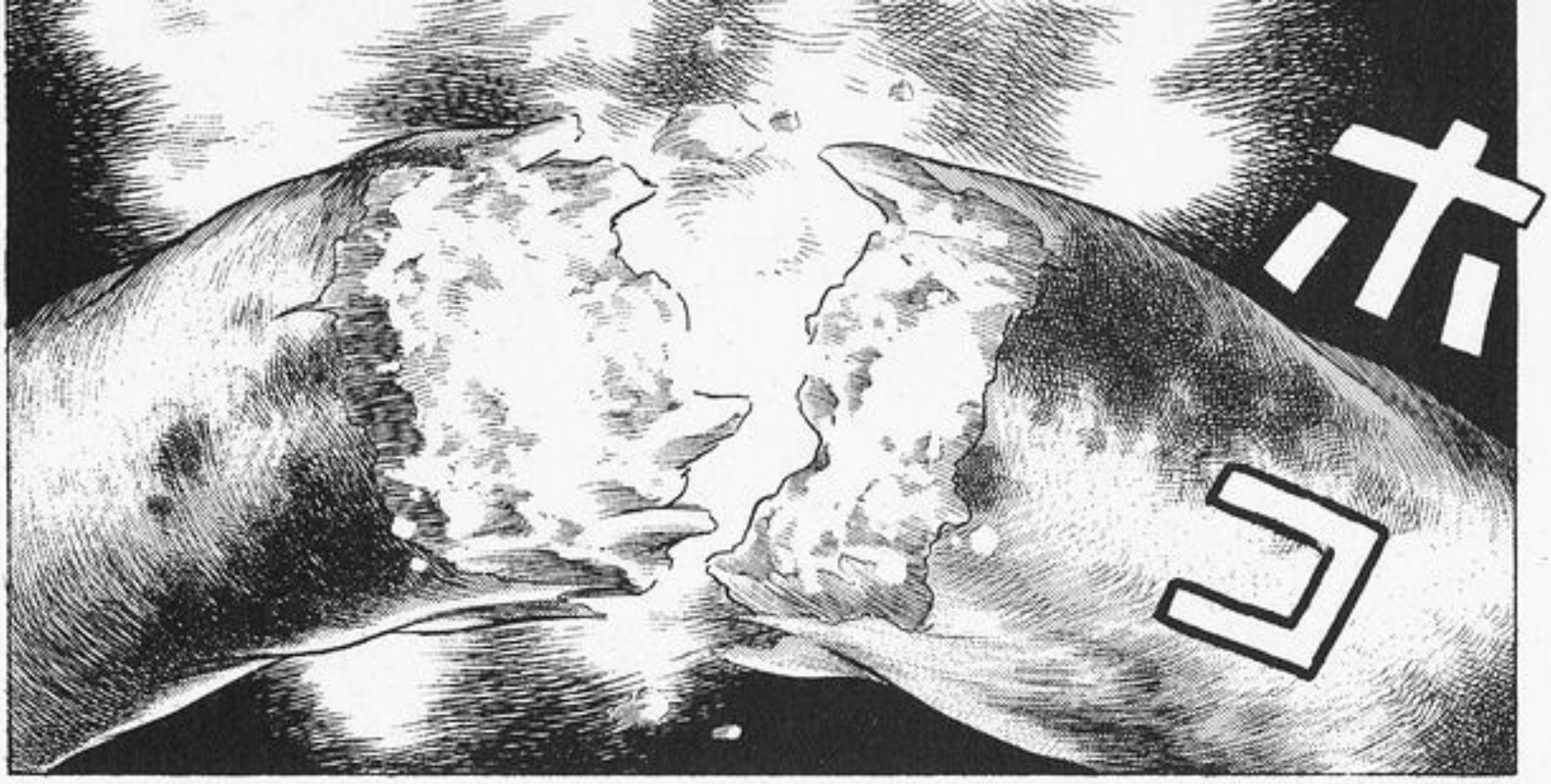
14

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

ROASTED TO PERFECTION, COME ON, HAVE A TASTE!

THIS FITS PERFECTLY WITH MY AIM.

THIS IS FANTASTIC!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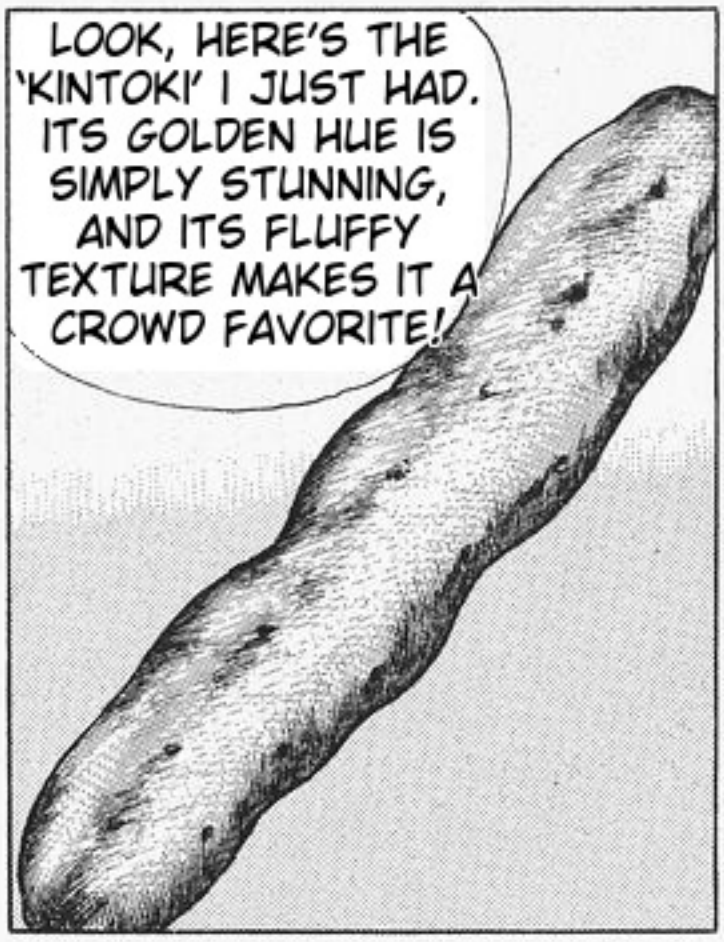
LOOK, HERE'S THE 'KINTOKI' I JUST HAD. ITS GOLDEN HUE IS SIMPLY STUNNING, AND ITS FLUFFY TEXTURE MAKES IT A CROWD FAVORITE!

THIS ROASTED SWEET POTATO IS A 'KINTOKI'- JUST LOOK AT THAT GOLDEN INTERIOR!
WOW, WHAT A DELIGHTFUL AROMA!

THERE ARE SO MANY VARIETIES OF SWEET POTATOES OUT THERE!

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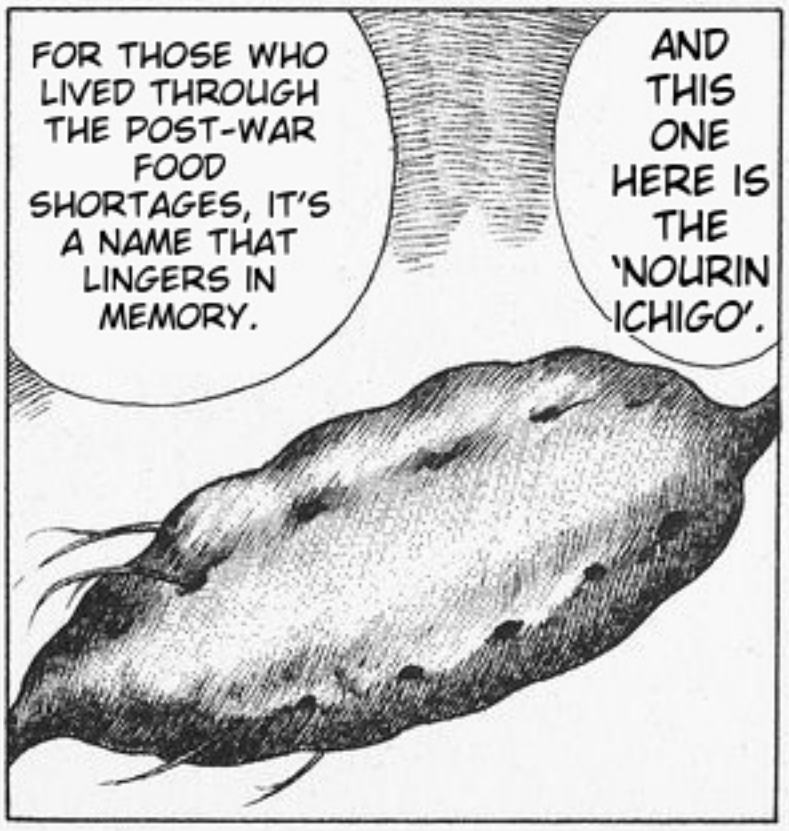
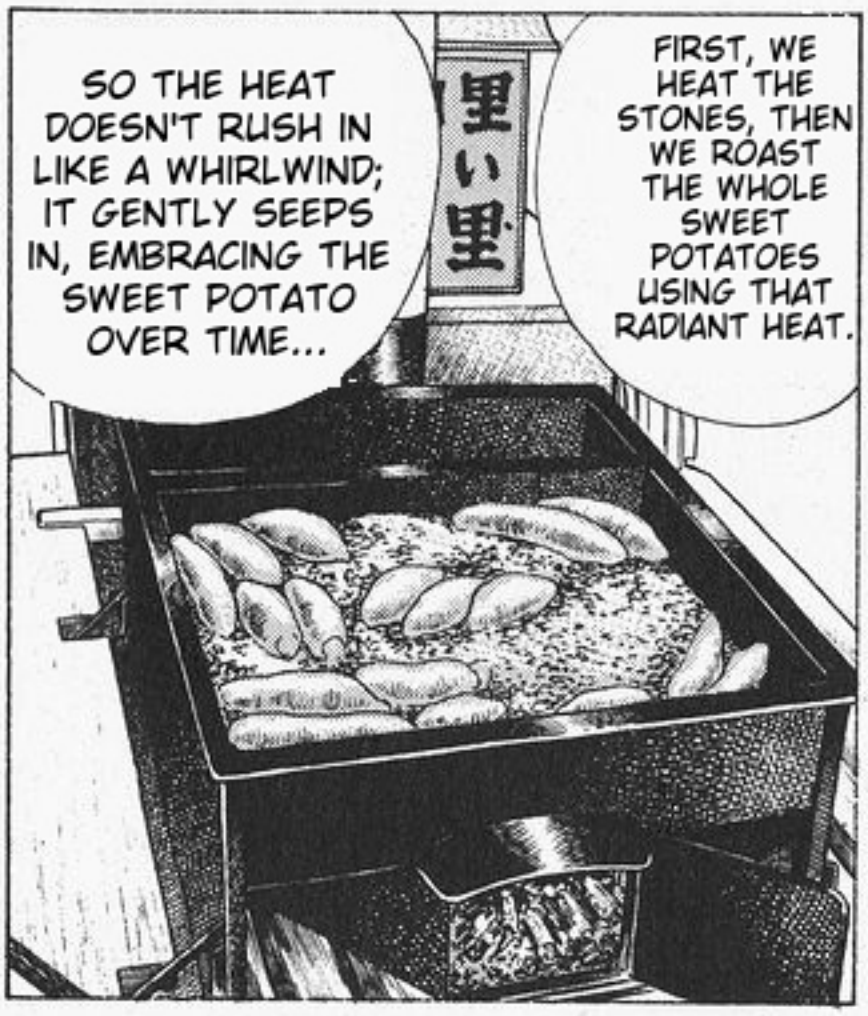
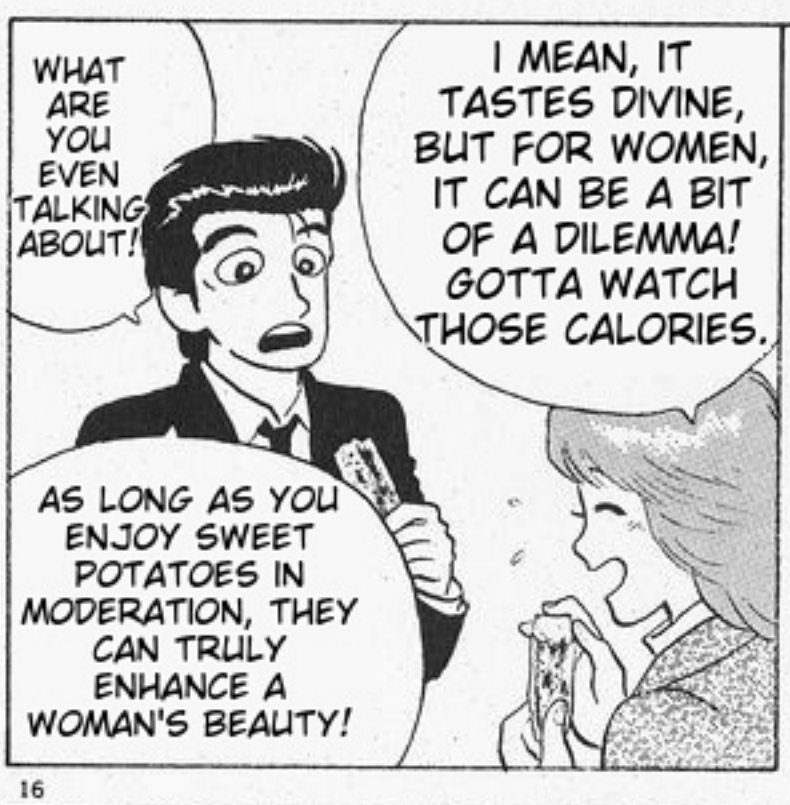

FOR THOSE WHO LIVED THROUGH THE POST-WAR FOOD SHORTAGES, IT'S A NAME THAT LINGERS IN MEMORY.
AND THIS ONE HERE IS THE 'NOURIN ICHIGO'.

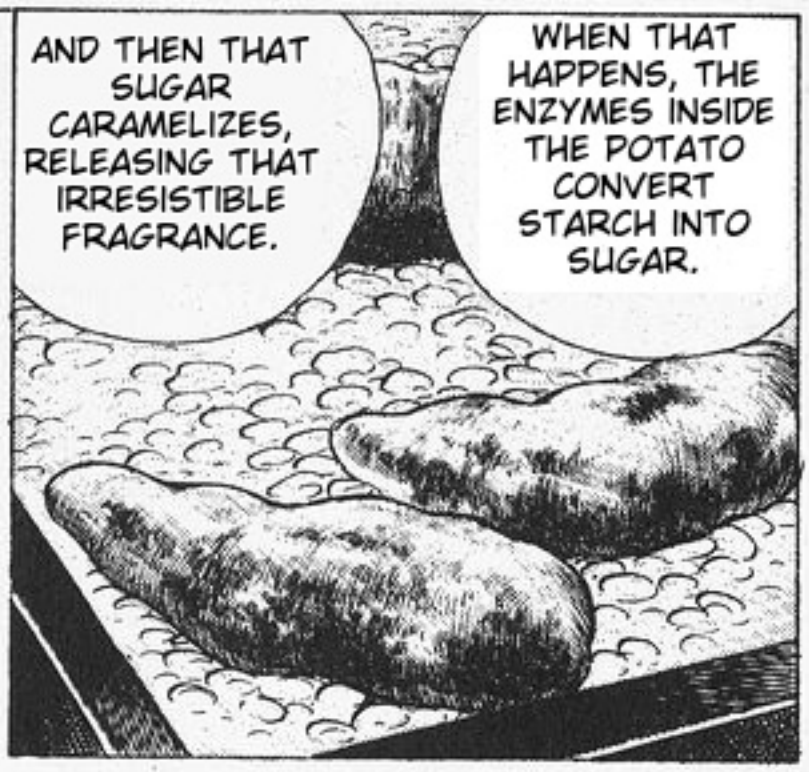
IT'S STOUT AND ROUND, ISN'T IT? IT'S LOW ON FIBER, SO ITS SOFT MOUTHFEEL IS REALLY APPEALING.
THIS ONE IS THE 'KOUGEN JYUNIGO'.


SO THE HEAT DOESN'T RUSH IN LIKE A WHIRLWIND; IT GENTLY SEEPS IN, EMBRACING THE SWEET POTATO OVER TIME...
FIRST, WE HEAT THE STONES, THEN WE ROAST THE WHOLE SWEET POTATOES USING THAT RADIANT HEAT.

WHY DOES IT SMELL SO INCREDIBLY SWEET AND TOASTY?
OH, THAT AROMA IS DIVINE!

THIS IS THE MAGIC OF STONE-BAKED SWEET POTATOES!


WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT!
I MEAN, IT TASTES DIVINE, BUT FOR WOMEN, IT CAN BE A BIT OF A DILEMMA! GOTTA WATCH THOSE CALORIES.
AS LONG AS YOU ENJOY SWEET POTATOES IN MODERATION, THEY CAN TRULY ENHANCE A WOMAN'S BEAUTY!


AND THEN THAT SUGAR CARAMELIZES, RELEASING THAT IRRESISTIBLE FRAGRANCE.
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THE ENZYMES INSIDE THE POTATO CONVERT STARCH INTO SUGAR.

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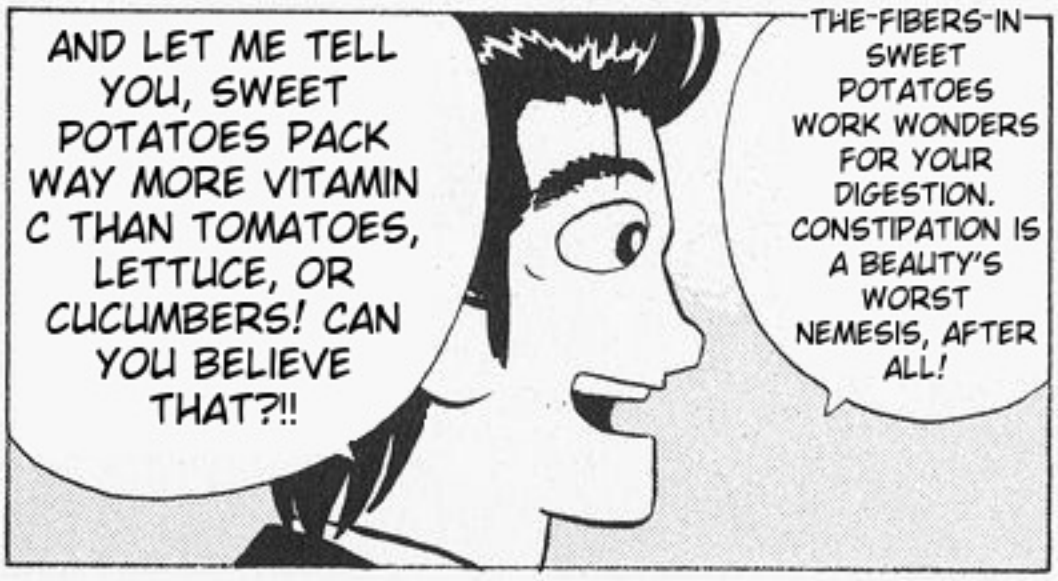
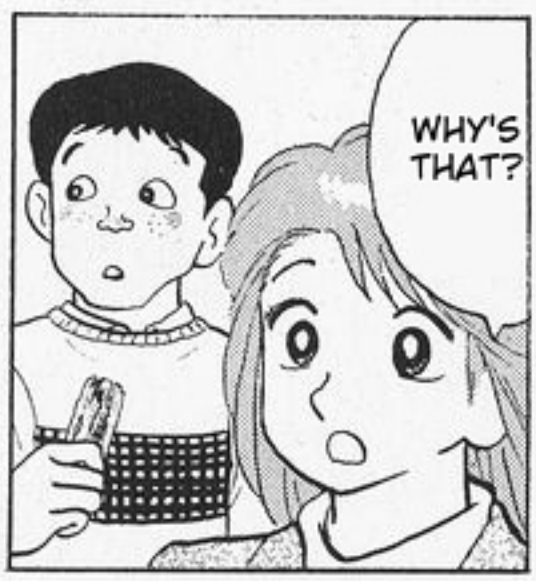
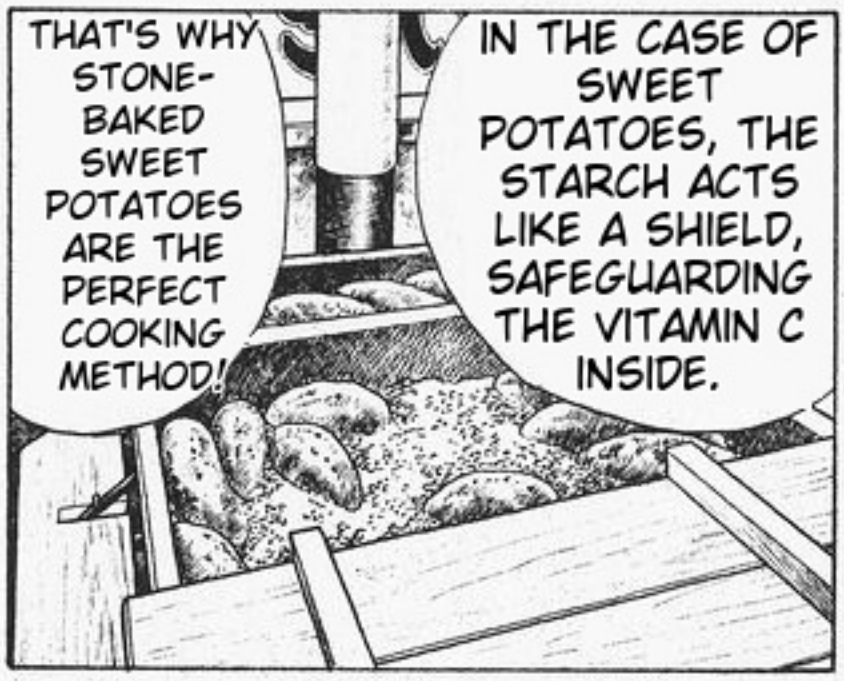
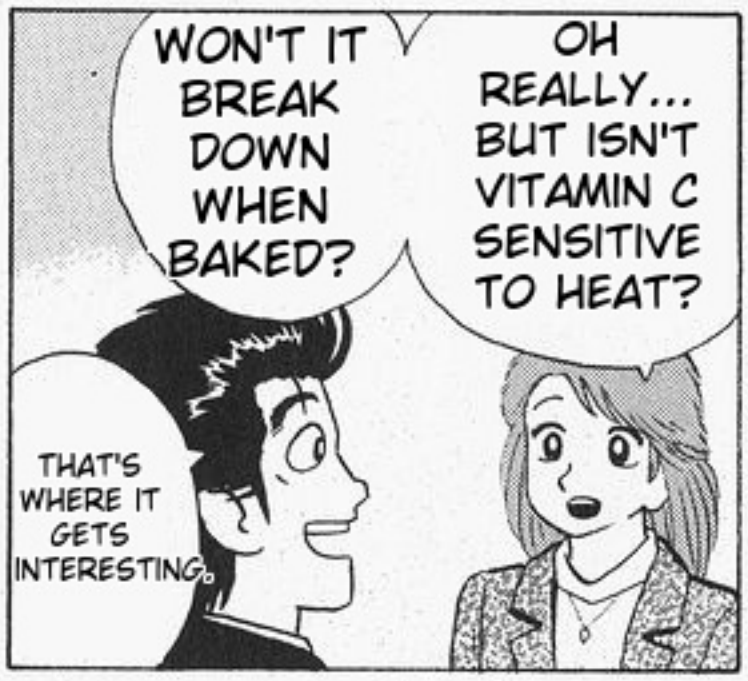
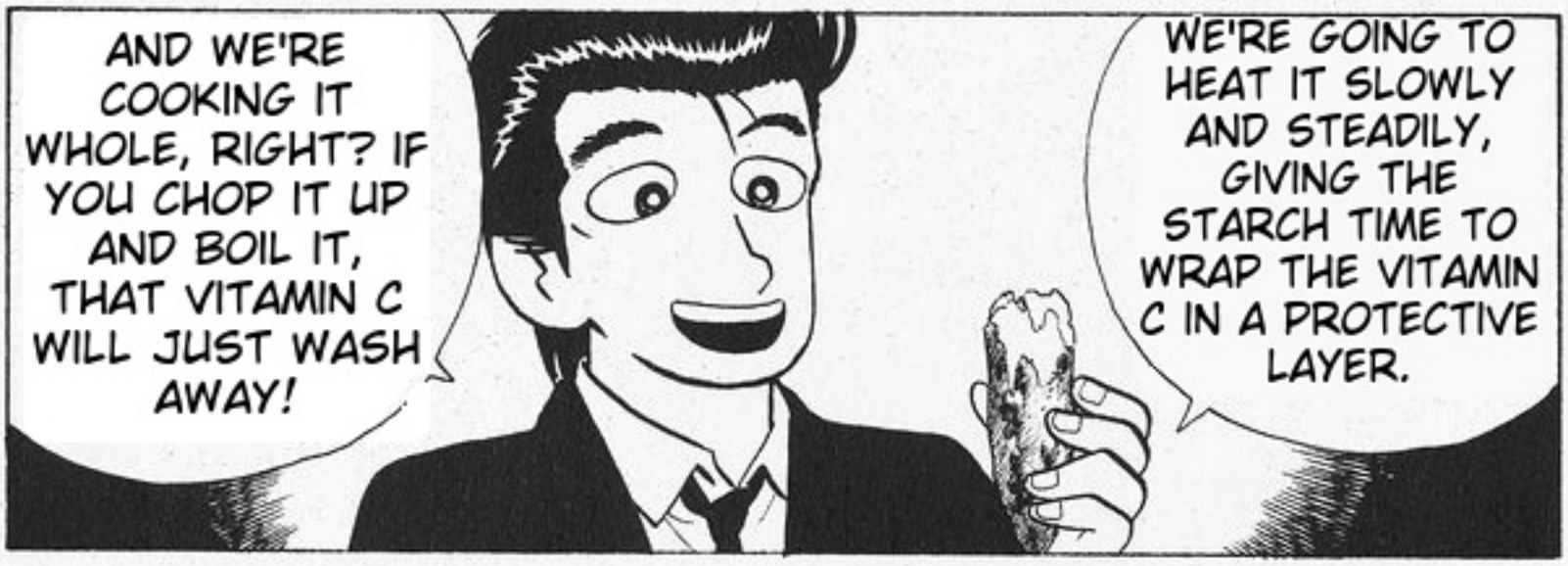

AND LET ME TELL YOU, SWEET POTATOES PACK WAY MORE VITAMIN C THAN TOMATOES, LETTUCE, OR CUCUMBERS! CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?!!
THE FIBERS IN SWEET POTATOES WORK WONDERS FOR YOUR DIGESTION. CONSTIPATION IS A BEAUTY'S WORST NEMESIS, AFTER ALL!

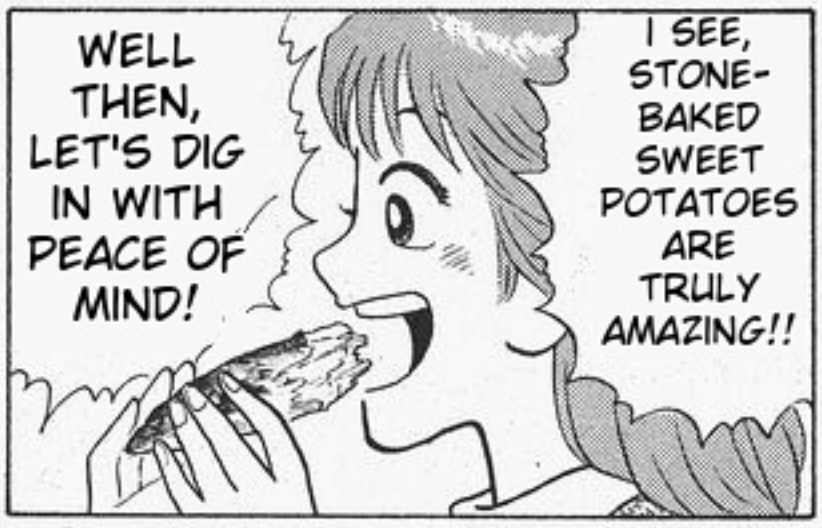

WHY'S THAT?

DELICIOUS!









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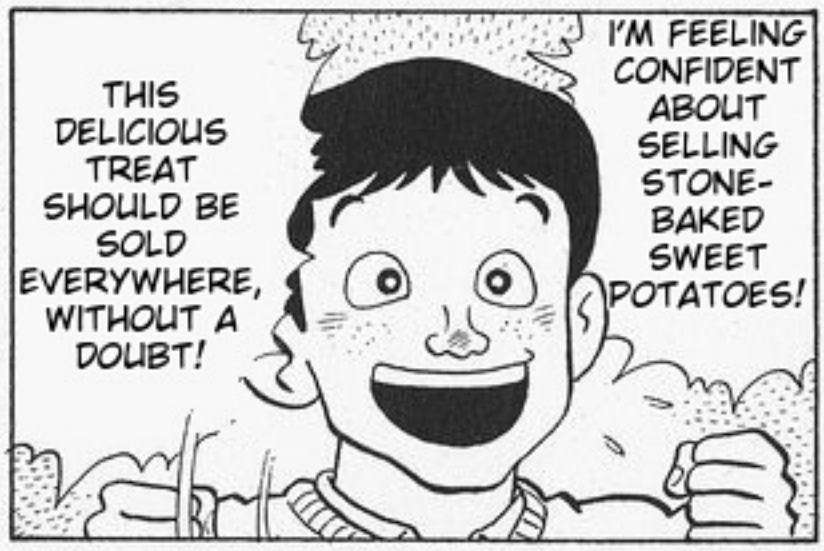


USE YOUR VOICE! LET IT SOAR!

NO, NO, NO, NO!

I... I... BAKED... SWEET POTATO...

OH, WHAT A PITIFUL GUY YOU ARE!

I'M JUST TOO TIMID FOR THIS KIND OF THING...

NO WAY, NO WAY! I CAN'T DO IT...

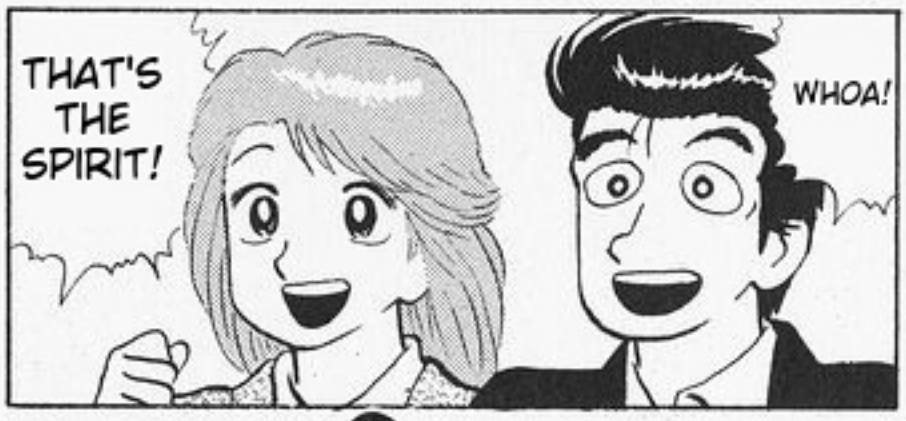
I... I... BAKED... SWEET POTATO...

LET'S GIVE IT A WHIRL IN THE STYLE OF THE NAMBU CATTLE DRIVE SONG!

AMANO-KUN, REMEMBER THE NAMBU CATTLE DRIVE SONG!

HUH?

DELICIOUS!


THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
WHOA!

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FRESH SWEET POTATO!
GREAT! KEEP IT COMING, EVEN MORE!!

HEY, AMANO, CHECK THIS OUT!
HUH...?

FRESH SWEET POTATO!!!!!

I WANT ONE TOO!

HEY, BRO, THROW ME THREE KILOS, WILL YA!

YAMAOKA-SAN, KURITA-SAN!!

I JUST DASHED DOWN FROM THE SEVENTH FLOOR OF THE APARTMENT!

WHAT A LOVELY VOICE! I'M ABSOLUTELY ENCHANTED!

THIS HAS GOT TO BE DELICIOUS!

I'M IMPRESSED YOU DIDN'T EVEN NEED A MEGAPHONE THESE DAYS!

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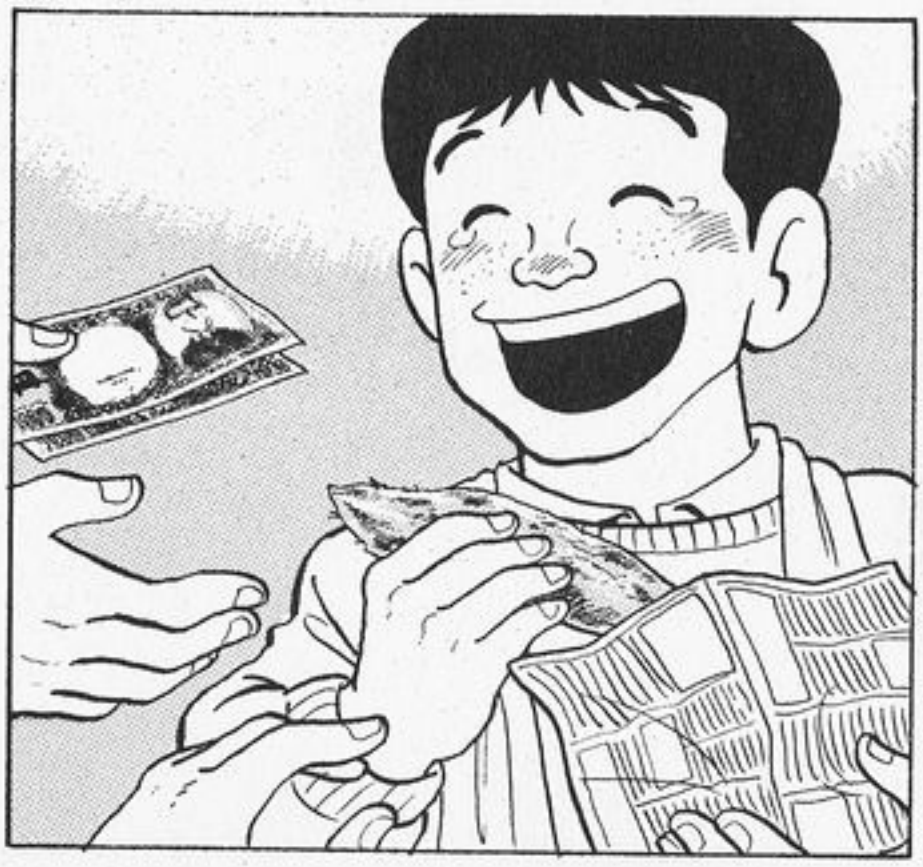
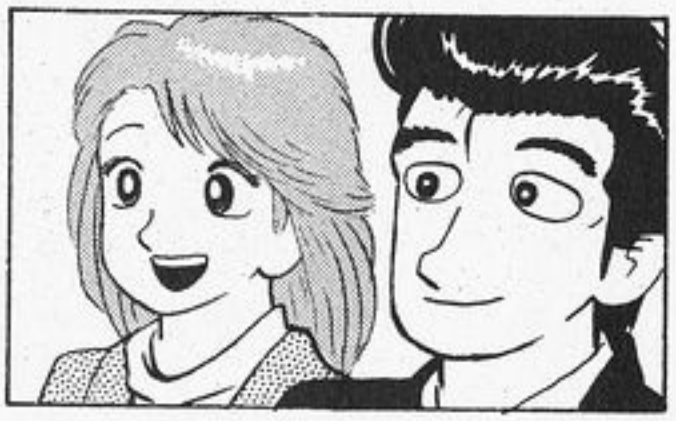
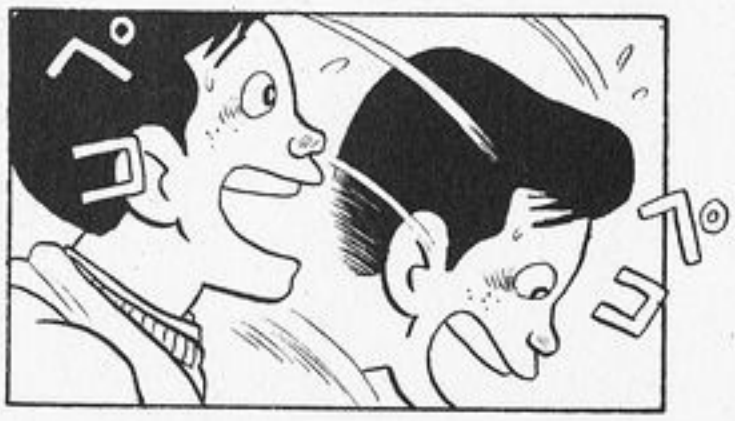
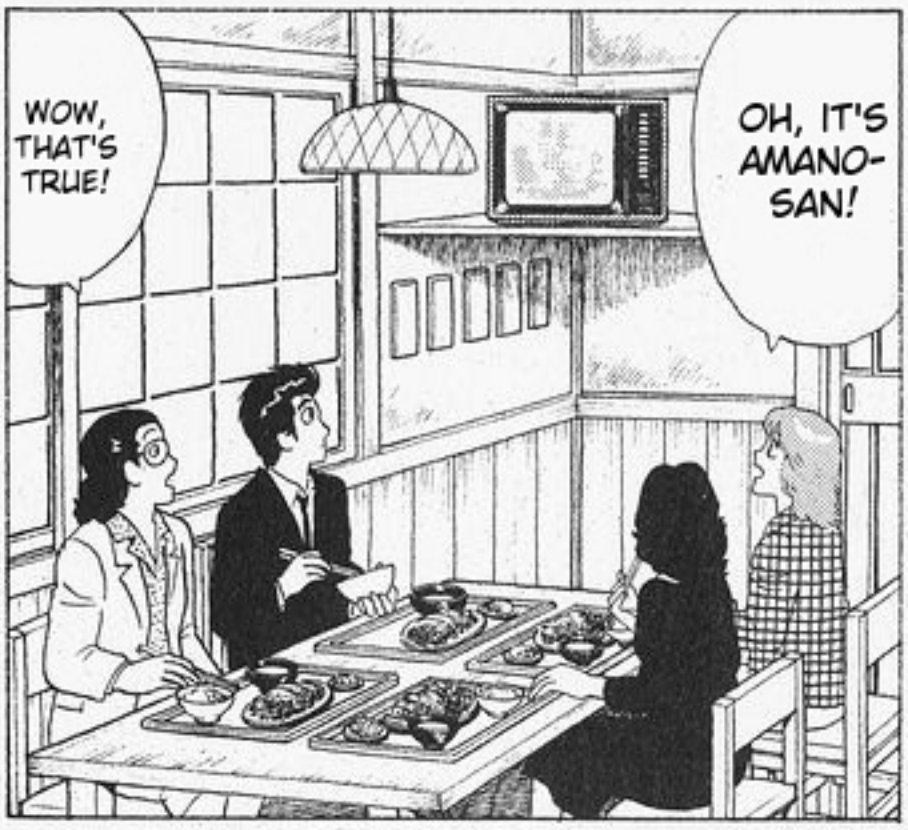
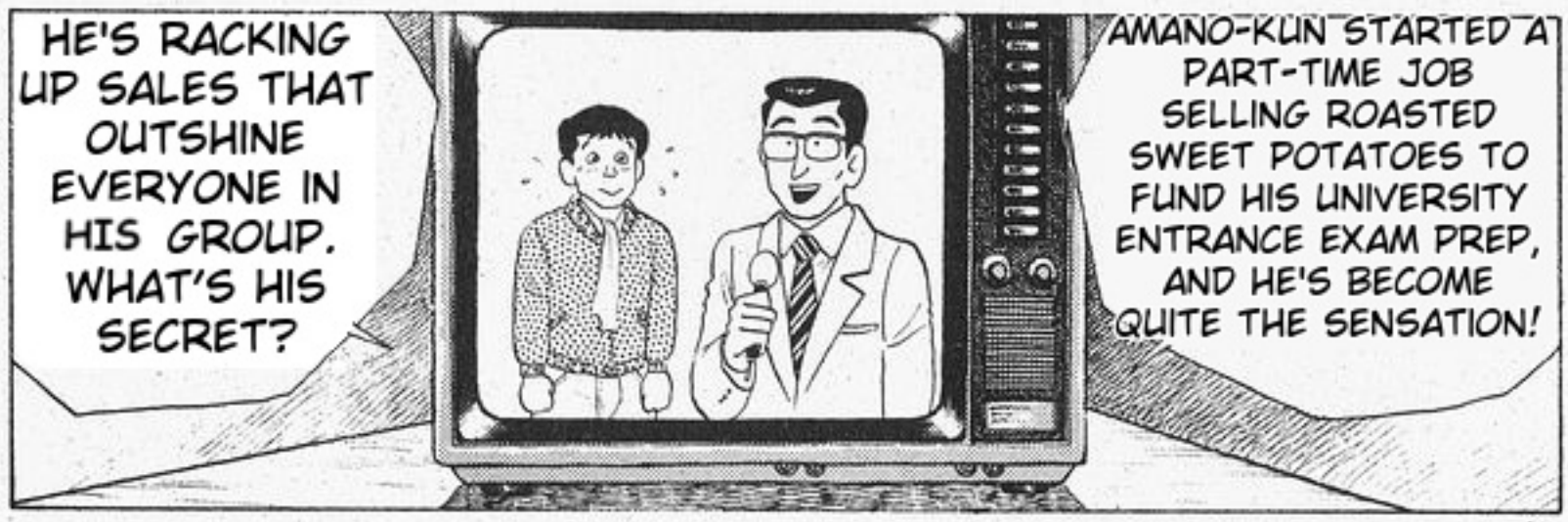






DELICIOUS!





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*IT CONVEYS A MEANING AKIN TO 'PLEASE BRING ME SOME SNOW.' IT DEPICTS KENJI'S SISTER, SHIZUKO, ON HER DEATHBED, BEGGING FOR THE SNOW FALLING OUTSIDE AS HER LAST MEAL. A TRULY MOVING PIECE.

第4話

下町の温(ぬく)もり

I KNOW THIS ISN'T THE KIND OF PLACE I'D NORMALLY TAKE YOU GUYS...

TOKYO, FUKAGAWA

THE PLACES THE INSPECTOR TAKES US TO ARE ALWAYS QUITE THE TREAT!

OH, COME ON NOW.

AND I'VE KNOWN YOU TWO ALMOST THAT LONG AS WELL, SO I THOUGHT IT FITTING...

BUT IT'S THE OWNER'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF BEING OPEN...

YEAH, THE CROWD MAY BE A BIT ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES, BUT HIS KNACK FOR PICKING DELICIOUS SPOTS IS SPOT ON!

2

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HEY! AM I BEING PRAISED OR INSULTED HERE?

HEY, CONGRATS ON YOUR FIFTH ANNIVERSARY!

NAKA-MATSU! GOOD TO SEE YOU!
HEY!

WELCOME TO AMIHAMA, WE'RE THRILLED TO HAVE YOU HERE!
THIS GUY RIGHT HERE IS THE OWNER OF THIS JOINT, HANKICHI AMIHAMA!

LET ME TAKE THAT BAG...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WE'RE PRETTY DOWN-TO-EARTH FOLKS OURSELVES.
I LOVE TO SIP MY SAKE WITH A GOOD SIDE OF RICE!
WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO MAKE IT WORTHWHILE!

OK!
HEY, HANKICHI, JUST WHIP UP SOMETHING DELICIOUS FOR ME, WILL YA?

WE'RE JUST A SIMPLE ONE-BOWL EATERY, SO DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING FANCY.
WE DON'T DO ELABORATE DISHES OR HIGH-CLASS CUISINE, THAT'S JUST NOT OUR STYLE.

IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S SOAKED IN FLAVOR!

THIS IS A STEW OF TARO AND LOTUS ROOT.

I FOUND A PIECE THAT WAS JUST BURSTING WITH FLAVOR, SO I DECIDED TO STEW IT UP.

IT'S GOLDEN-EYED SNAPPER.

IT MAY LACK FRILLS, BUT IT'S GOT AN HONEST, COMFORTING TASTE.

MMMMMM, OHHHH, THAT'S DELIGHTFUL!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

IT GIVES ME A WARM, NOSTALGIC FEELING WITH EVERY BITE.

4

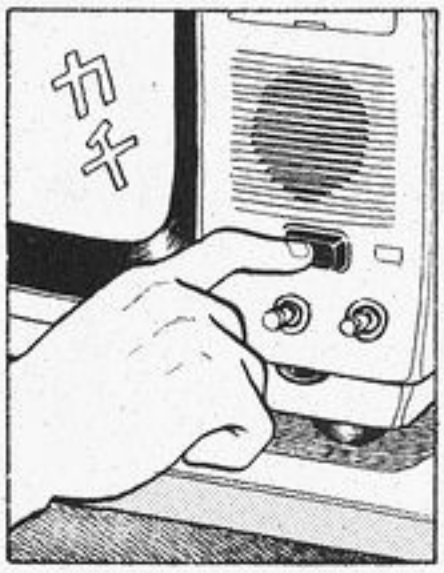
IT'S EASY TO EAT SINCE YOU DON'T HAVE TO DIG AROUND IN THE HEAD!

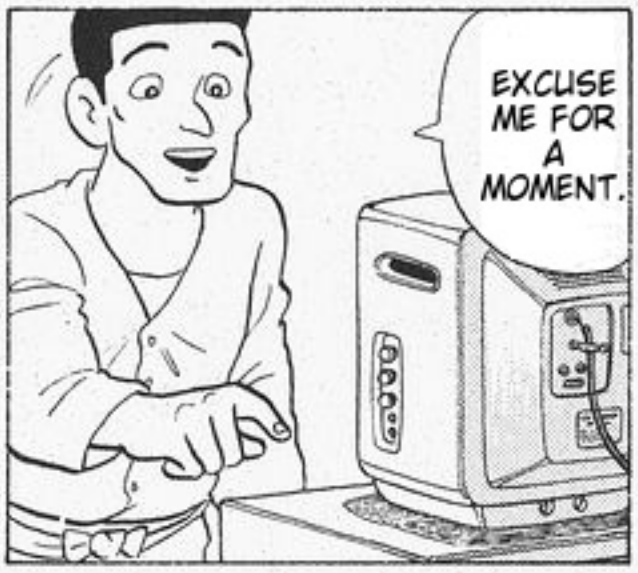
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THE TAIL IS WAY MORE REFINED AND DELICIOUS!

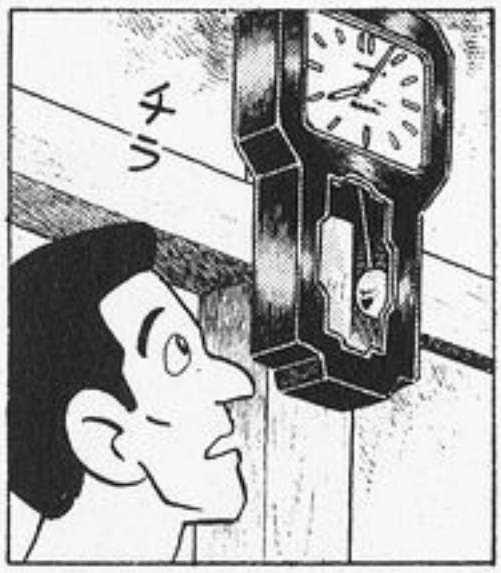
I'M SORRY, BUT THIS IS ALL THERE IS.

WHY IS IT THAT ONLY MY DISH HAS THE TAIL?!

DELICIOUSNESS
UNLEASHED, VOLUME 15!







OH, COME ON! ISN'T IT GREAT? ASUKA MAYUMI IS REALLY POPULAR.

JUST SHUT IT OFF ALREADY!

TURN IT OFF, WILL YOU?!

IDIOT! DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME ON SUCH A STUPID SHOW!

N-NO, IT'S FINE.

WELL!

DON'T LET THE POLICE ABUSE THEIR POWER!

Y-YES!

OH, DO YOU KNOW ASUKA MAYUMI?

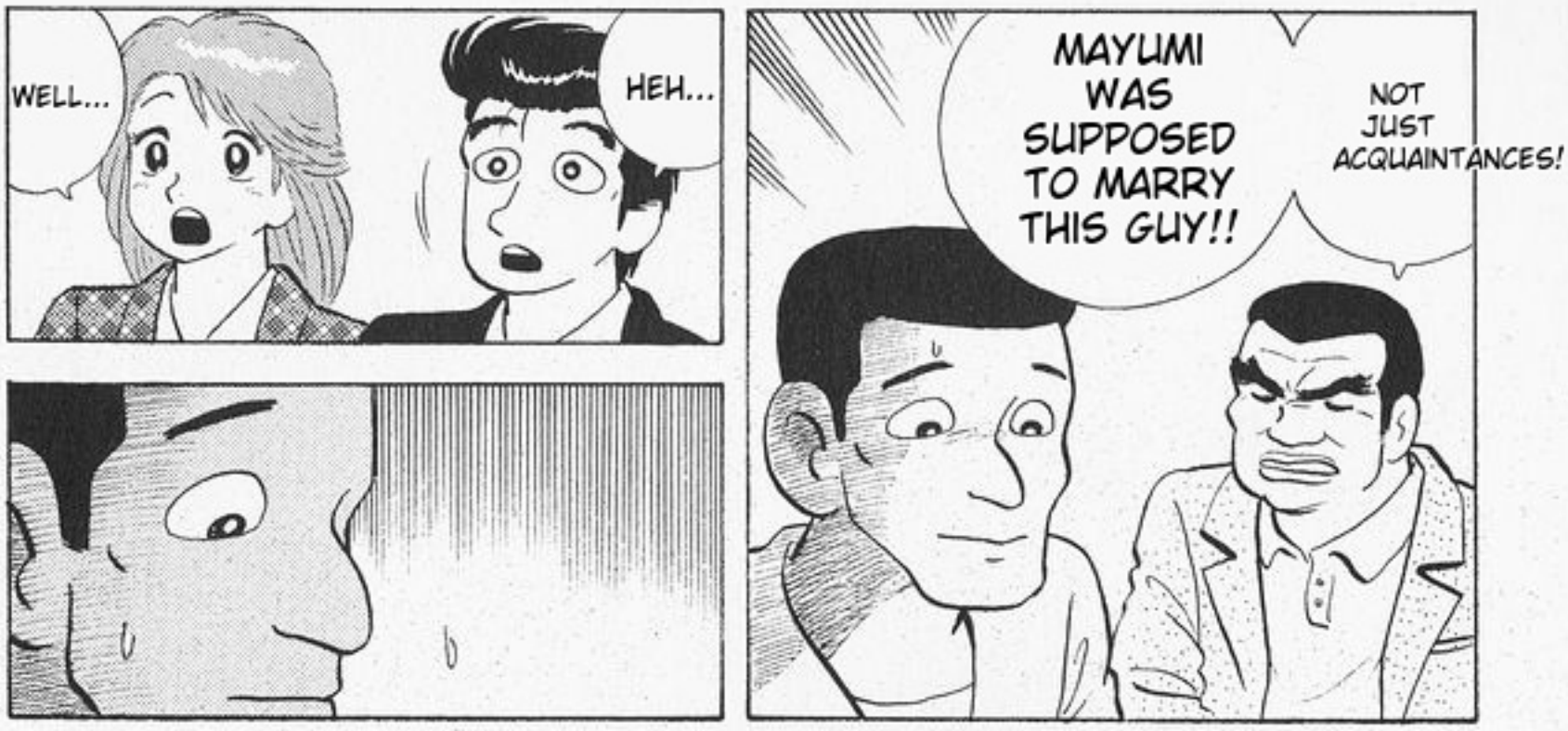
Y-YEAH...

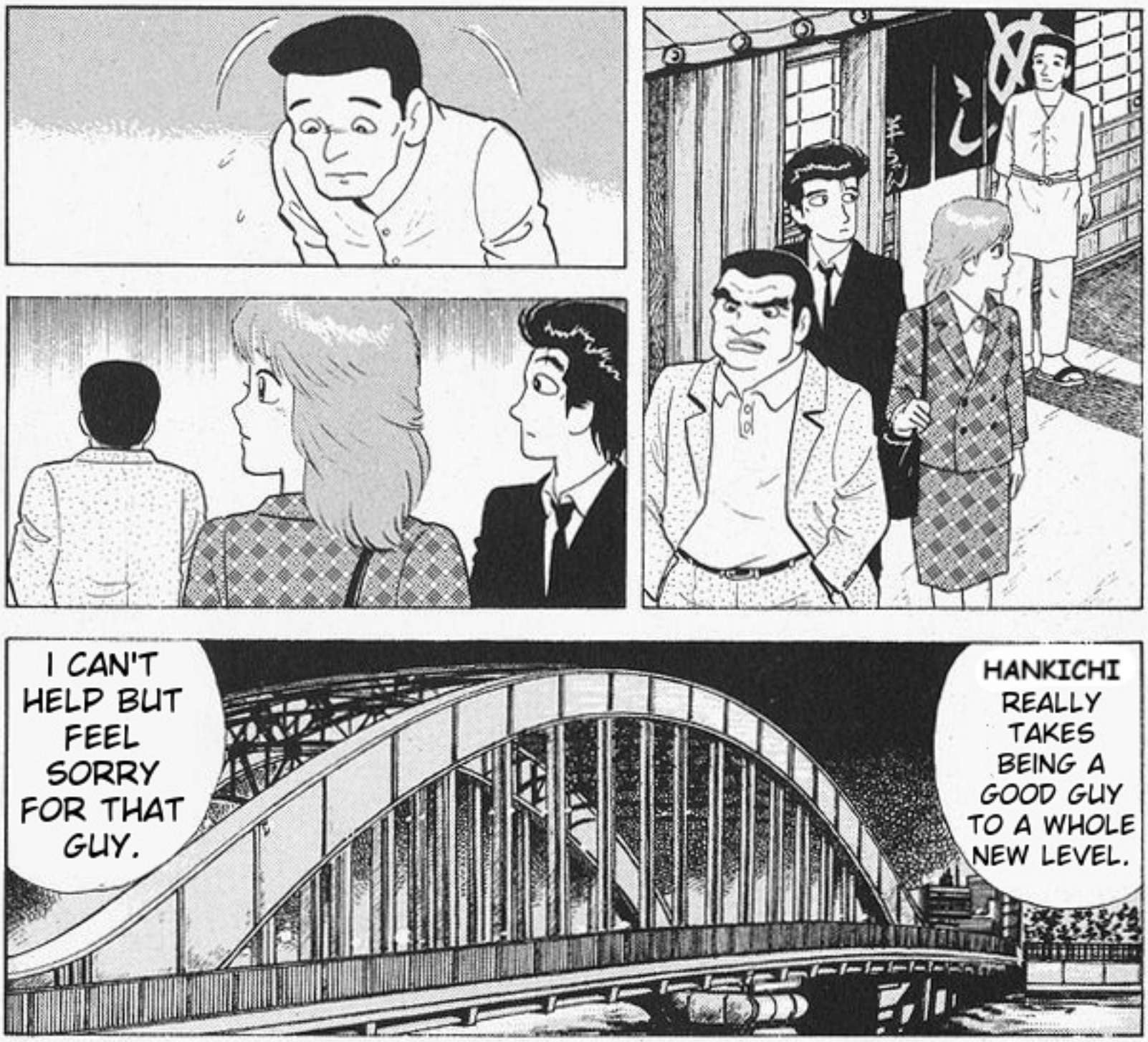
BUT SHE'S SUPER BUSY RIGHT NOW...

WELL, SORT OF...

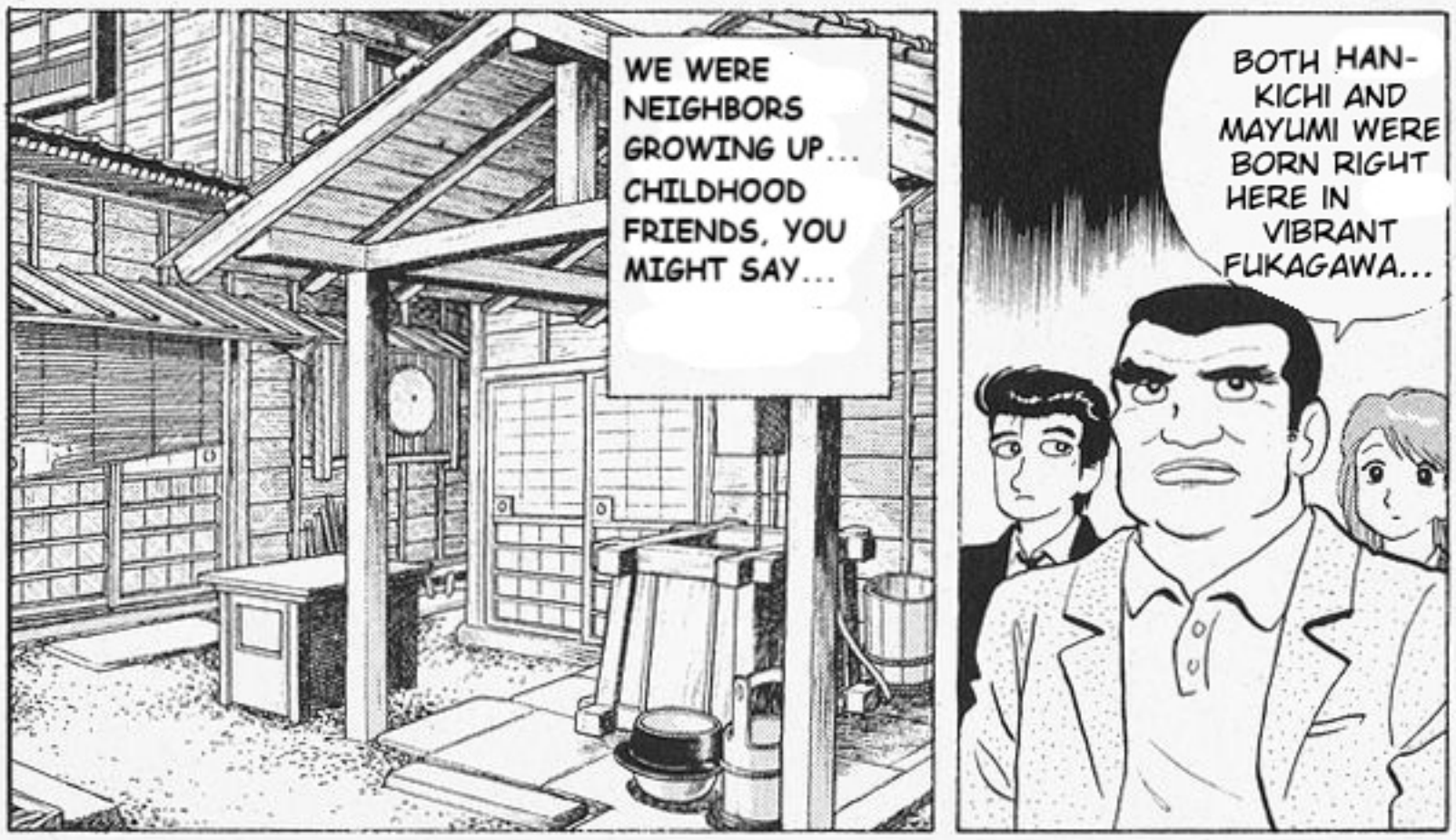
SHE DIDN'T EVEN COME TONIGHT.

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED, VOLUME 15!




I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL SORRY FOR THAT GUY.
HANKICHI REALLY TAKES BEING A GOOD GUY TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL.

8


WE WERE NEIGHBORS GROWING UP... CHILDHOOD FRIENDS, YOU MIGHT SAY...
BOTH HANKICHI AND MAYUMI WERE BORN RIGHT HERE IN VIBRANT FUKAGAWA...

THE HANKICHI FAMILY HAD BEEN LENDING A HELPING HAND AT EVERY TURN...

BUT HER MOTHER WAS FRAIL AND UNWELL,

MAYUMI'S FATHER HAD PASSED AWAY EARLY, LEAVING JUST HER AND HER MOTHER,

WITH A MEAGER SALARY, THEY STRETCHED TO COVER THE COSTS OF A NIGHT MUSIC SCHOOL.

HANKICHI, WHO HAD BEGUN WORKING AS A CHEF,

AND THUS BEGAN THE JOURNEY INTO THE ESTEEMED TO MUSIC ACADEMY...

WHEN MAYUMI, FRESH FROM JUNIOR HIGH, EXPRESSED HER DREAM OF STUDYING MUSIC,

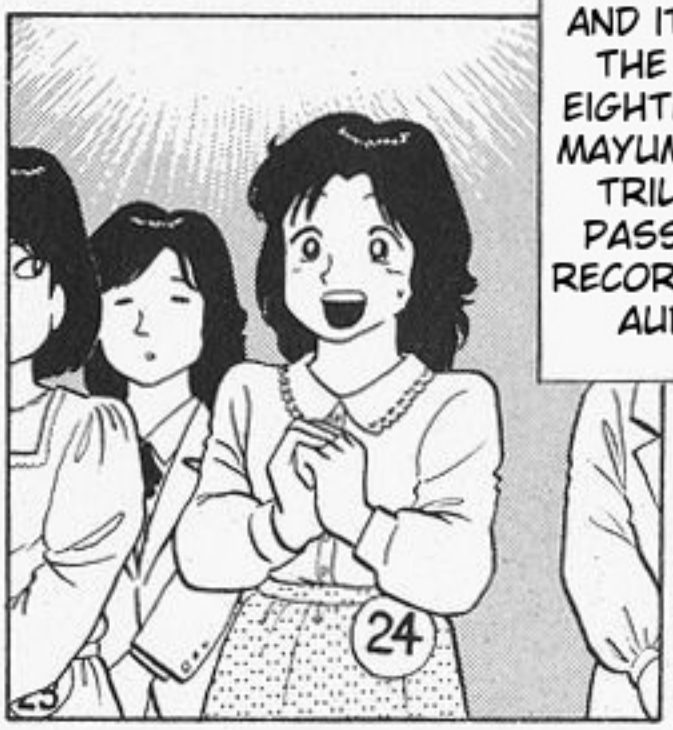
9

AFTER THE PASSING OF HER MOTHER...

MAYUMI FOUND HERSELF RELYING ON THE HANKICHI FAMILY TO NAVIGATE LIFE...

AND IT WAS AT THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN THAT MAYUMI FINALLY TRIUMPHED, PASSING THE RECORD LABEL'S AUDITION.

KNIGHTLY AMBITIONS.



...BUT A LONG STRETCH OF SILENCE FELL OVER THEIR SALES,

TWO YEARS ROLLED BY, AND MAYUMI BEGAN TO FEEL THE WEIGHT OF GIVING UP ON HER DREAMS IN SHOWBIZ.

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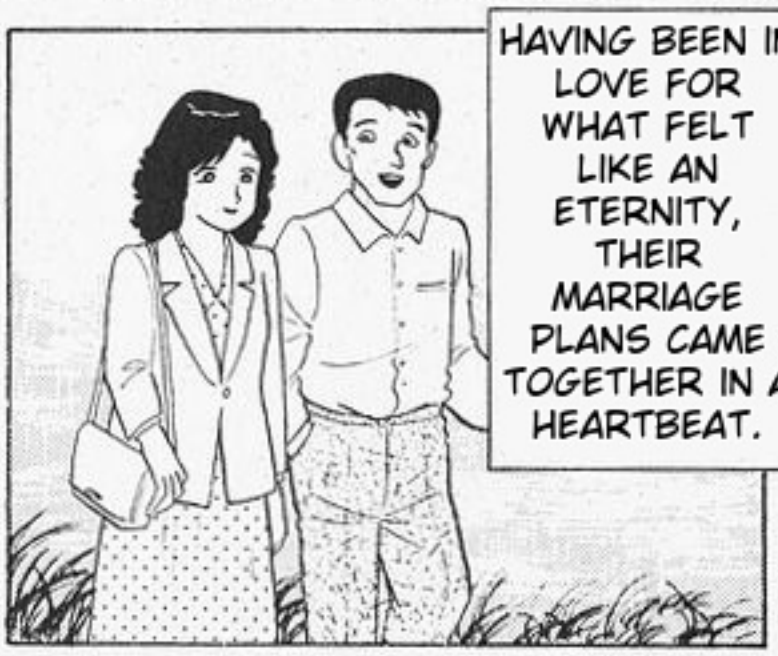
WITH A SPARK OF HOPE, HANKICHI TOOK ON DEBT TO OPEN A STORE, AND TOGETHER THEY SET OUT TO MAKE IT WORK...



HAVING BEEN IN LOVE FOR WHAT FELT LIKE AN ETERNITY, THEIR MARRIAGE PLANS CAME TOGETHER IN A HEARTBEAT.

BUT JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT COULDN'T GET ANY CRAZIER,
MAYUMI'S NEW SINGLE BECAME A MASSIVE HIT!
MAYUMI RODE THAT WAVE OF MOMENTUM AND SKYROCKETED TO STARDOM IN NO TIME.
AS ASUKA MAYUMI.
新人賞
音楽大賞
SHE MOVED FROM A MODEST SHARE HOUSE TO AN APARTMENT, AND THEN TO A LUXURIOUS CONDO, LEAVING HANKICHI BEHIND.
EVEN SO, SHE STILL FREQUENTED THE SHOP,
EVER SINCE SHE SWITCHED AGENCIES THREE YEARS AGO, SHE JUST VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE...

HANKICHI DOESN'T SEEM ANGRY...

IN SHORT, MAYUMI HAS THROWN HANKICHI ASIDE!

SHE MUST THINK IT'S DOWNRIGHT RIDICULOUS TO BECOME THE WIFE OF A HUMBLE EATERY OWNER IN THE OLD TOWN.

WHAT KIND OF GUTS DO YOU HAVE IF YOU CAN'T EVEN KILL THE WOMAN WHO BETRAYED YOU?!

INSTEAD OF GETTING MAD, HE'S CHEERING FOR MAYUMI LIKE IT'S THE BEST THING EVER!!

YET, ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING, MAYUMI DIDN'T EVEN SEND A SINGLE FLOWER!

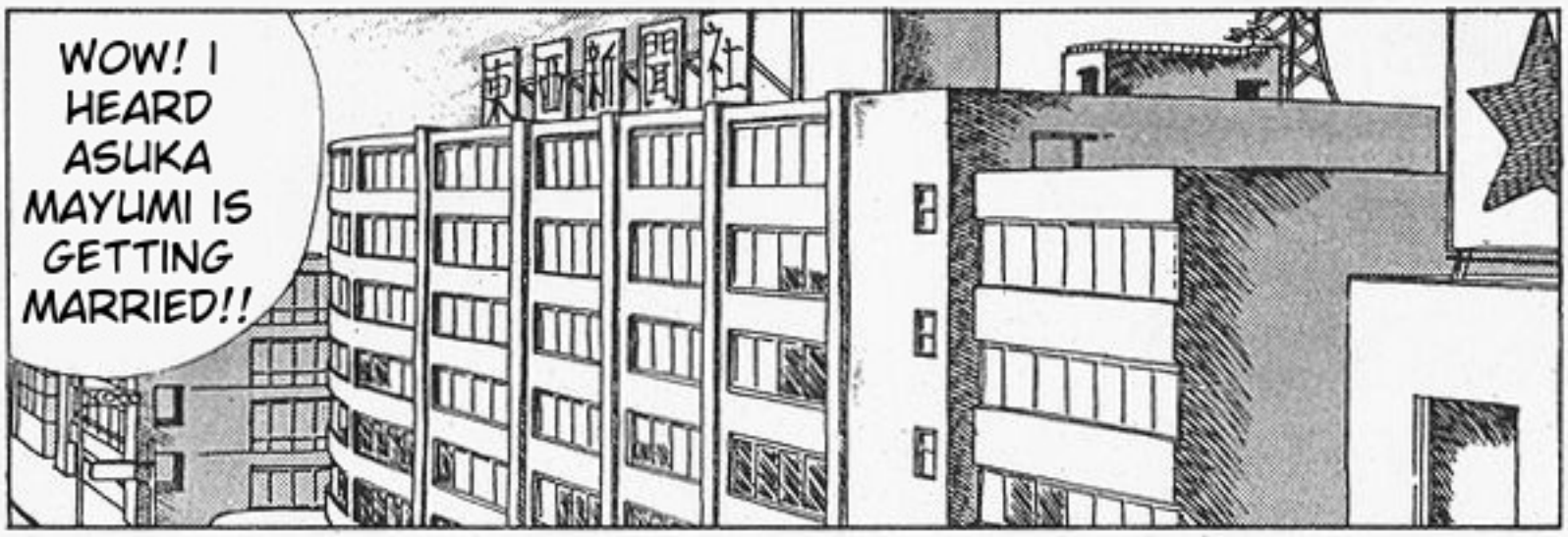
HE TOOK ON ALL THAT DEBT TO OPEN THE SHOP, HOPING TO MAKE IT WORK WITH MAYUMI!

I JUST CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL SORRY FOR HIM...

HEY, HEY, IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR A POLICE OFFICER TO SAY STUFF LIKE THAT?!

HE'S SUCH A NICE GUY, THAT HANKICHI... WOW.....

HE'S SUCH A COWARD!


WOW! I HEARD ASUKA MAYUMI IS GETTING MARRIED!!

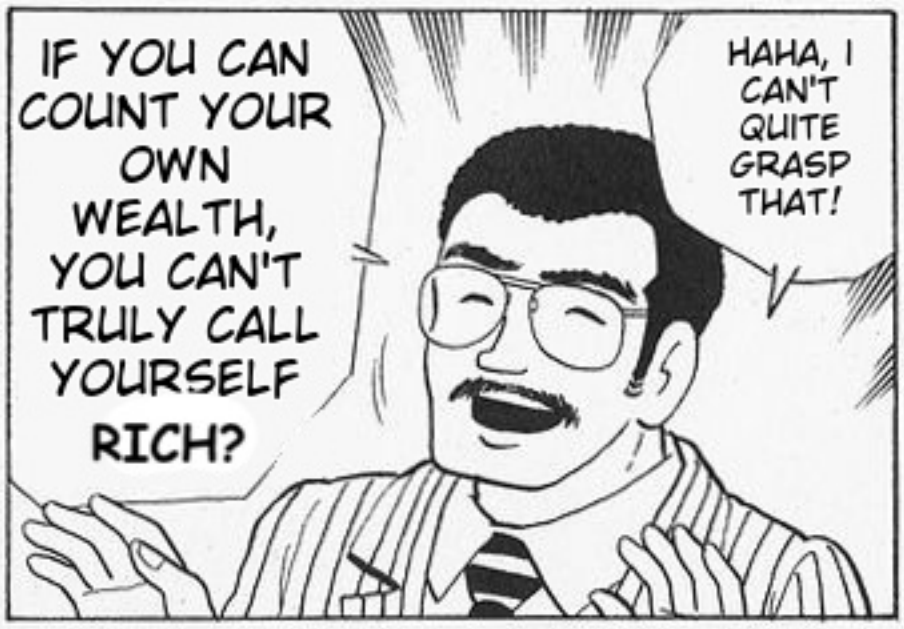
I'M A WEALTHY MAN MANAGING A REAL ESTATE COMPANY AND A FEW RESTAURANTS, AND I EVEN OWN A HOTEL IN HAWAII.
MAYUMI-SAN IS DATING A YOUNG BUSINESSMAN.

WELL!

SUCH A TERRIBLE VIBE!
NO WAY!! WHAT A JERK! MAYUMI, WHY ON EARTH ARE YOU MARRYING SOMEONE LIKE HIM?!

HOW MUCH DO YOU HAVE IN ASSETS?

13


IF YOU CAN COUNT YOUR OWN WEALTH, YOU CAN'T TRULY CALL YOURSELF RICH?
HAHA, I CAN'T QUITE GRASP THAT!

TOMII, PLEASE, TRY TO STAY CALM.

OH WOW! HOW SCANDALOUS, HOW UTTERLY DISGRACEFUL!

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

DID YOU HEAR? SANUKI-SAN GIFTED MAYUMI A DIAMOND RING WORTH THREE HUNDRED MILLION YEN!

.....

THROWING AWAY HANKICHI AND MARRYING A GOLD-DIGGING MAN LIKE THAT? UNBELIEVABLE!!

MAYUMI HAS COMPLETELY LOST HER MIND!

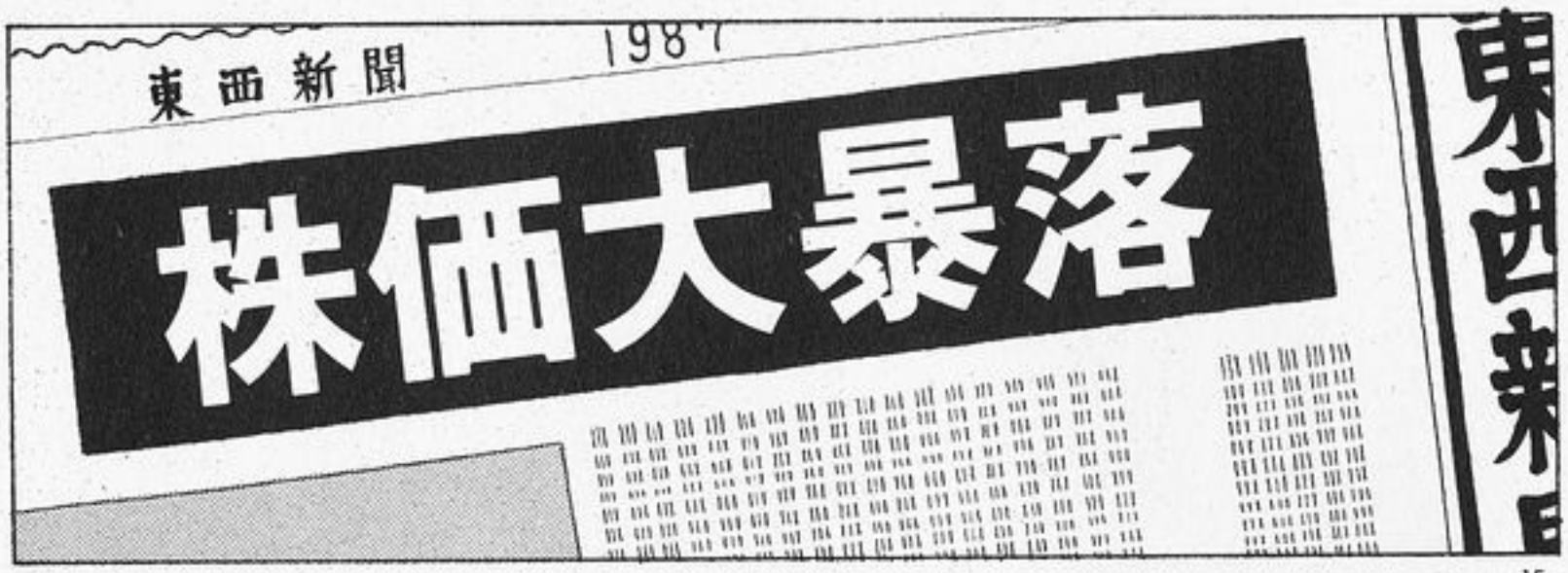
I'M DONE WITH A COWARD LIKE HANKICHI!

AND WRITING CONGRATULATORY LETTERS TO MAYUMI, OF ALL THINGS!

WHAT'S EVEN MORE PATHETIC IS THAT HANKICHI, THAT GUY-

I THINK HE'S A TRULY STRONG PERSON WITH A BIG HEART.

I DON'T SEE HANKICHI AS A COWARD AT ALL.



131 *TL NOTE: THE NEWSPAPER HEADLINE IS REFERENCING THE REAL LIFE OCTOBER 1987 STOCK MARKET CRASH. LUCKILY FOR JAPAN, THIS CRASH WAS MILD COMPARED TO HOW IT AFFECTED SOME OTHER NATIONS SUCH AS NEW ZEALAND, WHOSE RECESSION BECAUSE OF IT LASTED INTO THE 90S...

APPARENTLY, HER FIANCÉ LOST A FORTUNE IN STOCKS AND WENT BANKRUPT!

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT HE'S DITCHED THE ENGAGEMENT AND TAKEN OFF OVERSEAS!

THE WEDDING OF ASUKA MAYUMI HAS BEEN CALLED OFF.

WOW, THE STOCK MARKET CRASH HAS REALLY SENT SHOCKWAVES THROUGH UNEXPECTED PLACES!

I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT MAYUMI'S WELL-BEING.

SHE'S ALREADY FILED FOR RETIREMENT FROM HER AGENCY...

AND TO ESCAPE HIS CREDITORS, HE'S PLANNING TO FLEE THE COUNTRY? THAT'S JUST OUTRAGEOUS!

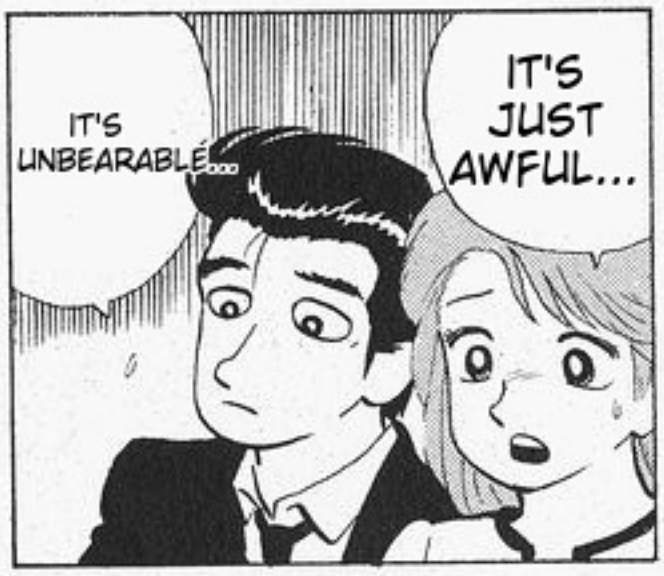
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT GUY? HE SNATCHED THE DIAMOND RING RIGHT BACK FROM MAYUMI! WHAT A TERRIBLE MAN.

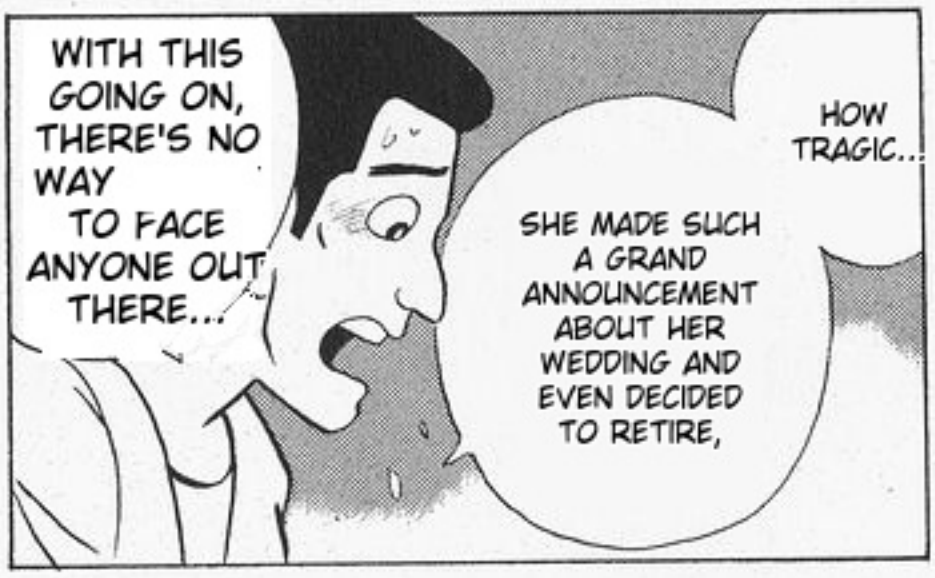
WELL, HERE'S THE KICKER- SHE'S MISSING!

SO, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH MAYUMI RIGHT NOW?

16

WHAT ON EARTH HAS HAPPENED...?
IT'S BEEN A WEEK AND WE STILL HAVE NO CLUE WHERE MAYUMI IS...

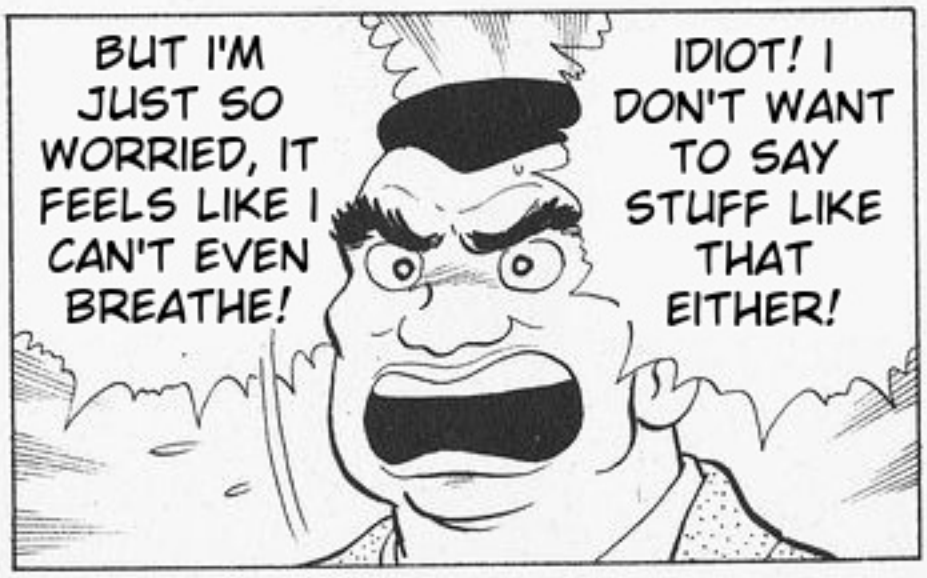

IT'S UNBEARABLE...
IT'S JUST AWFUL...


WITH THIS GOING ON, THERE'S NO WAY TO FACE ANYONE OUT THERE...
HOW TRAGIC...
SHE MADE SUCH A GRAND ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT HER WEDDING AND EVEN DECIDED TO RETIRE,

.....

PLEASE, DON'T SAY SUCH OMINOUS THINGS!
I HOPE SHE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING FOOLISH...

17


BUT I'M JUST SO WORRIED, IT FEELS LIKE I CAN'T EVEN BREATHE!
IDIOT! I DON'T WANT TO SAY STUFF LIKE THAT EITHER!

18

AREN'T YOU STARVING? LET'S WHIP SOMETHING UP.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? COME ON IN!

I REALLY SHOULDN'T BE HERE...
I'M JUST...

I...

MAYUMI, WHAT DO YOU FEEL LIKE EATING? IT LOOKS PRETTY CHILLY OUT; YOUR BODY MUST BE FREEZING!
I...
WE NEED SOMETHING WARM...

IT'LL WARM YOU RIGHT UP.
HOW ABOUT A NICE FUKAGAWA-NABE?

IT'S A CLASSIC DISH FOR THE EVERYDAY FOLKS OF TOKYO!
WHAT EXACTLY IS FUKAGAWA-NABE?

AH, HOW NOSTALGIC...
FUKAGAWA-NABE...

19

ALRIGHT! I'M GOING TO MAKE IT FOR YOU!

ONCE THE CLAMS ARE HALF-COOKED, TOSS IN A GENEROUS HANDFUL OF SLICED GREEN ONIONS...

AND JUST LIKE THAT, WE'RE READY TO FEAST.

USING A CLAY POT, EXTRACT THE UMAMI FROM THE KELP, AND WHISK IN THE MISO...

ADD THE SHELLED CLAMS!

IT FEELS LIKE MY HEART IS SWELLING WITH JOY...

AH... WHAT A WONDERFUL FRAGRANCE...

COME ON, MAYUMI, DIG IN.

20

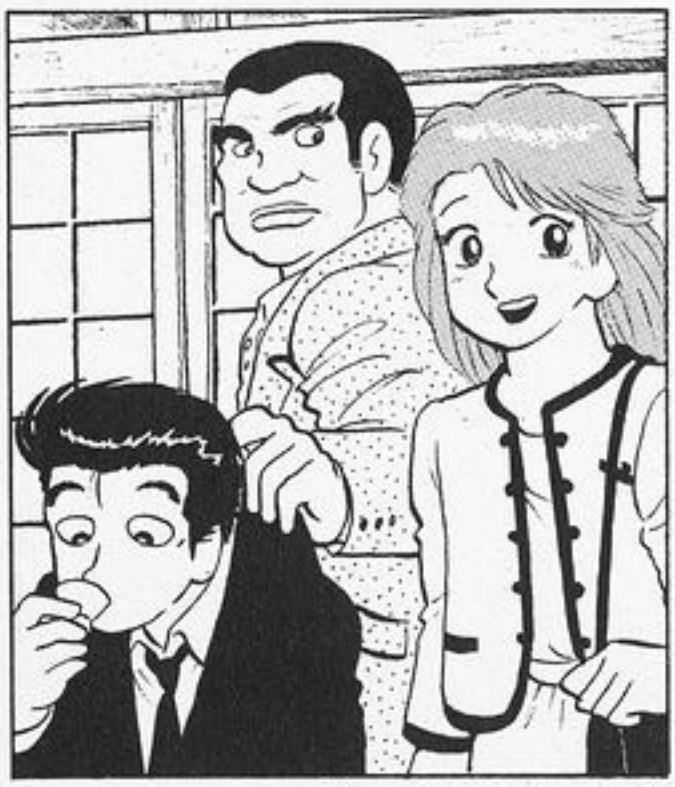
IT MIGHT BE A BIT UNCOUTH, BUT POURING THIS OVER RICE IS AN IRRESISTIBLE DELIGHT!

I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO DO THAT!

OH WOW... THE FLAVOR OF THE CLAMS AND THE AROMA OF THE GREEN ONIONS ARE DANCING TOGETHER!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED, VOLUME 15!

21



THAT HALF-WIT HANKICHI IS SUCH A SOFTIE, FORGIVING MAYUMI AND ALL!

FAREWELL.

DAMN IT...

MY EYES ARE STINGING FOR NO REASON...

UGH, THE WIND IS BITING, IT'S REALLY CHILLY...

GESH!

半ちゃん

I FEEL A COZY WARMTH SPREADING ALL THE WAY TO MY HEART.

I'VE ONLY HAD ONE BITE OF FUKAGAWA NABE, YET SOMEHOW,

THAT'S RIGHT. FUKAGAWA NABE WARMS YOU UP, INSIDE AND OUT.

22

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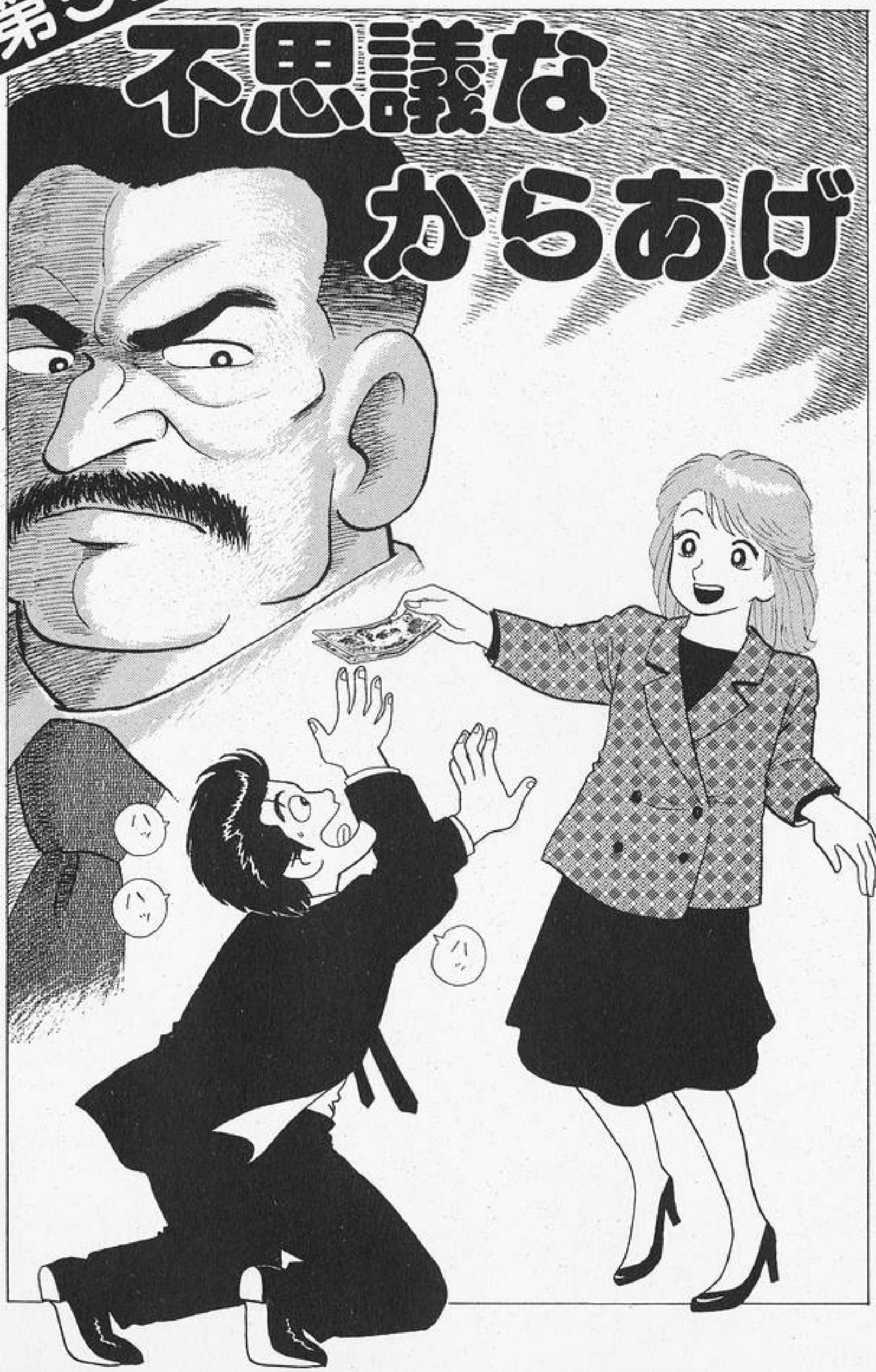
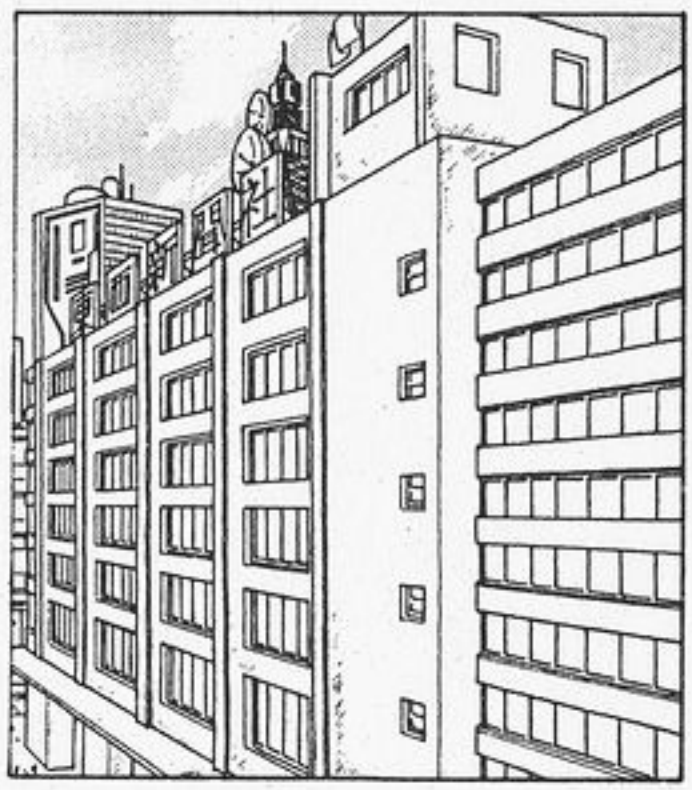


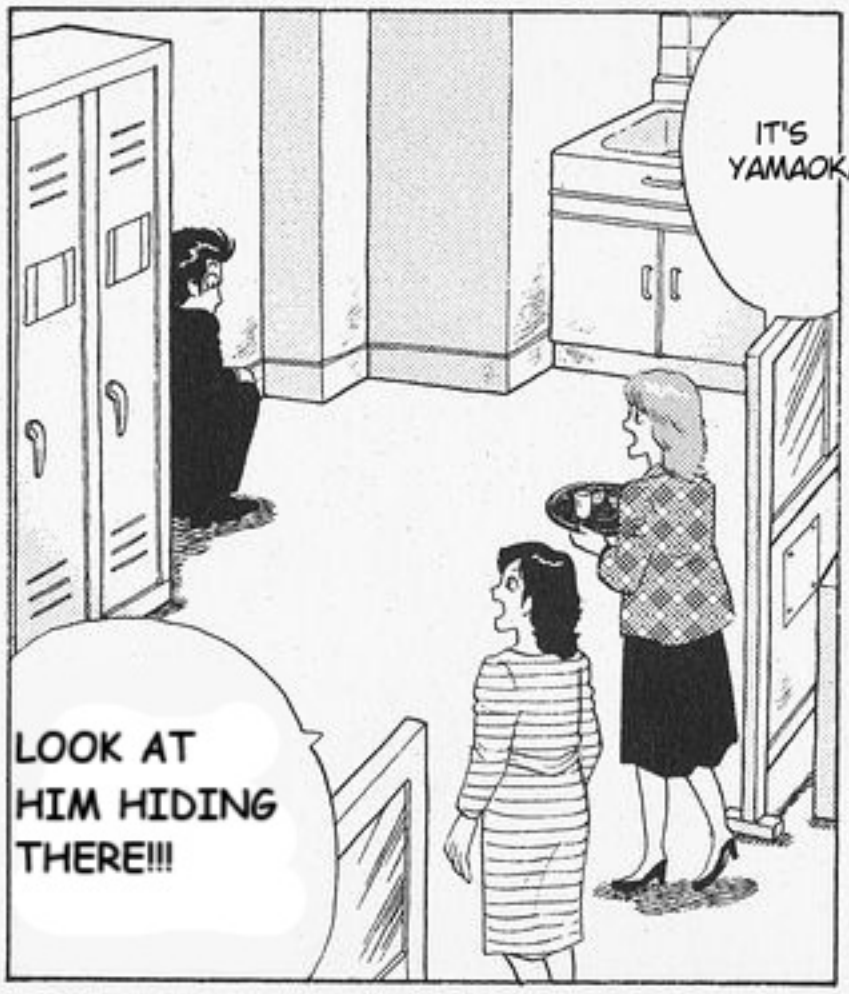
WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE?



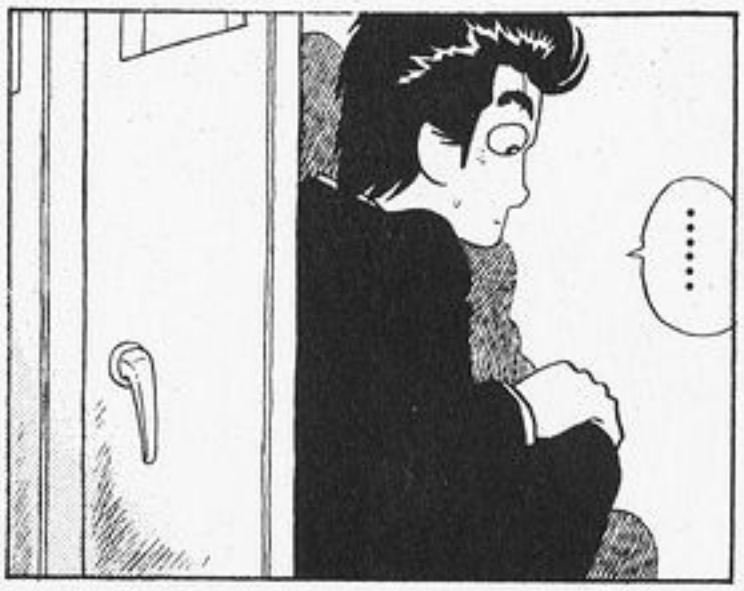
JUST WHO COULD IT BE...!?

THERE'S SOMEONE IN OUR DEPARTMENT RACKING UP TABS AT BARS AND RESTAURANTS!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S THE DEBT COLLECTORS.

2


IT'S YAMAOKA!
LOOK AT HIM HIDING THERE!!!

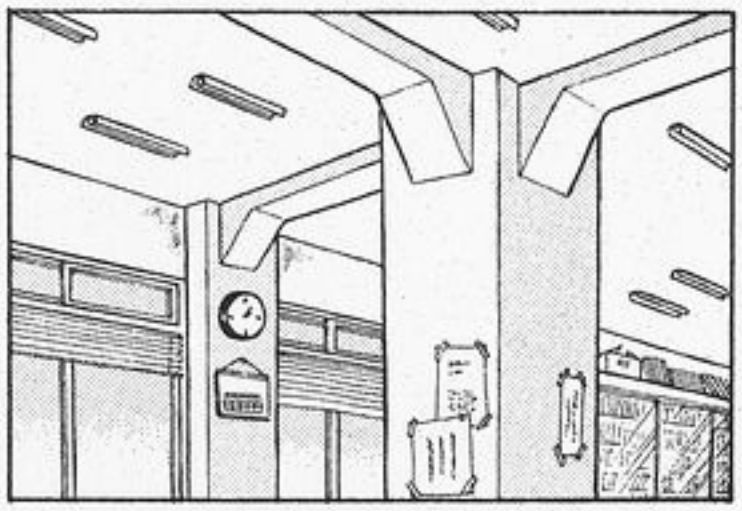
OF COURSE! WHO ELSE WOULD BE SO IRRESPONSIBLE?!!


.....

DELICIOUS!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR BONUS, HUH?!!
WELL, I'M ABSOLUTELY FLABBERGASTED!! YOU CAN'T EVEN PAY BACK SUCH A MEASLY AMOUNT OF MONEY?!

SHH



HOW PATHETIC!

IF I PAY THAT BACK, I'LL BE COMPLETELY BROKE...
THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER DEBTS PILING UP, YOU KNOW...

3

BUT IN RETURN, HE'LL HAVE TO WORK OFF THE INTEREST!
IT'S OKAY.

HUH?

WAIT, REALLY?!
FINE, IF IT'S JUST THAT MUCH, I'LL LEND IT TO YOU!
NO WAY, KURITA! YOU CAN'T CODDLE A GUY LIKE HIM!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
I'M THE SANTA CLAUS WHO CAME FROM THE LAND OF TOYS-TA-DA!
わー
わあ
THANK YOU, YUKO!
THANKS TO YOU, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO BRING JOY TO THE CHILDREN THIS CHRISTMAS!
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING A SANTA.
I CAN HARDLY EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE...
IT'S NO TROUBLE.

DELICIOUS!

OH MY! THE CHILDREN HAVE REALLY TAKEN A LIKING TO MR. YAMAOKA...

ヒソヒソ

WE, THE ADULTS, FIND OURSELVES LEARNING FROM THESE LITTLE ONES ALL THE TIME.

THESE KIDS ARE TRULY REMARKABLE.

WHENEVER A MAN VISITS, THE CHILDREN CAN'T CONTAIN THEIR JOY!

EVERYONE AT 'CHILDREN'S COUNTRY' IS FEMALE, SO...

BUT DESPITE BEING WITHOUT THEIR PARENTS, THEY'RE SO INCREDIBLY BRIGHT!

5

THAT'S JUST PART OF THE INTEREST WE GAIN FROM THEM.

INTEREST?

OH DEAR, WHAT A SITUATION!

YIKES!

ガラッ

THIS BUILDING IS SET TO BE DEMOLISHED. I'M SORRY, BUT YOU MUST VACATE.

YOU'LL NEED TO VACATE WITHIN THE MONTH.

THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING.

PLEASE, I BEG YOU...!!

N-NO WAY!!

6

WE'RE HANDLING THIS ALL ABOVE BOARD, YOU KNOW!

THE COURT HAS BACKED US UP ON THIS.

DELICIOUS!

THE LAND IS LEASED, AND WE SIGNED A CONTRACT AGREEING TO VACATE WHEN THE TIME COMES,

OUR ORIGINAL DIRECTOR POURED HER MONEY INTO THIS PLACE. WHEN SHE RETIRED, WE SIGNED A NEW LEASE...

THE LEASE EXPIRED TWO YEARS AGO...

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THOSE PEOPLE NOW...?

SO, YOU'RE BEING FORCED OUT?!

BUT DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS, THE SUDDEN SPIKE IN LAND PRICES HAS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE...

AND WHAT ABOUT RELOCATING -IS THERE EVEN A PLAN?

I SEE.

AND WE LOST THE CASE, NOW WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE.

THE COMPANY THAT BOUGHT THIS LAND FROM THE PREVIOUS OWNER HAS SUED US IN COURT,

子供の園

7

I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE US BEING SEPARATED.

BUT WE'VE LIVED TOGETHER LIKE A REAL FAMILY,

WELL, THE WORST CASE SCENARIO IS THEY TAKE THE CHILDREN AND PUT THEM IN GOVERNMENT FACILITIES...

SO WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE CHILDREN...?

DOES THAT MEAN I CAN'T LIVE WITH MY TEACHER AND EVERYONE ELSE?

HEY, DO WE REALLY HAVE TO LEAVE THIS PLACE?

I CAN'T STAND BEING APART FROM EVERYONE!

I ABSOLUTELY HATE THAT!

A BIG COMPANY LIKE THAT DOESN'T NEED TO TAKE LAND FROM SUCH A TINY PLACE...

SPEAKING OF YOHTO, THEY JUST BUILT A BRAND NEW HOTEL IN GINZA.

WHO'S THE NEW OWNER ANYWAY?

WAIT, THAT BIG YOHTO GROUP?!

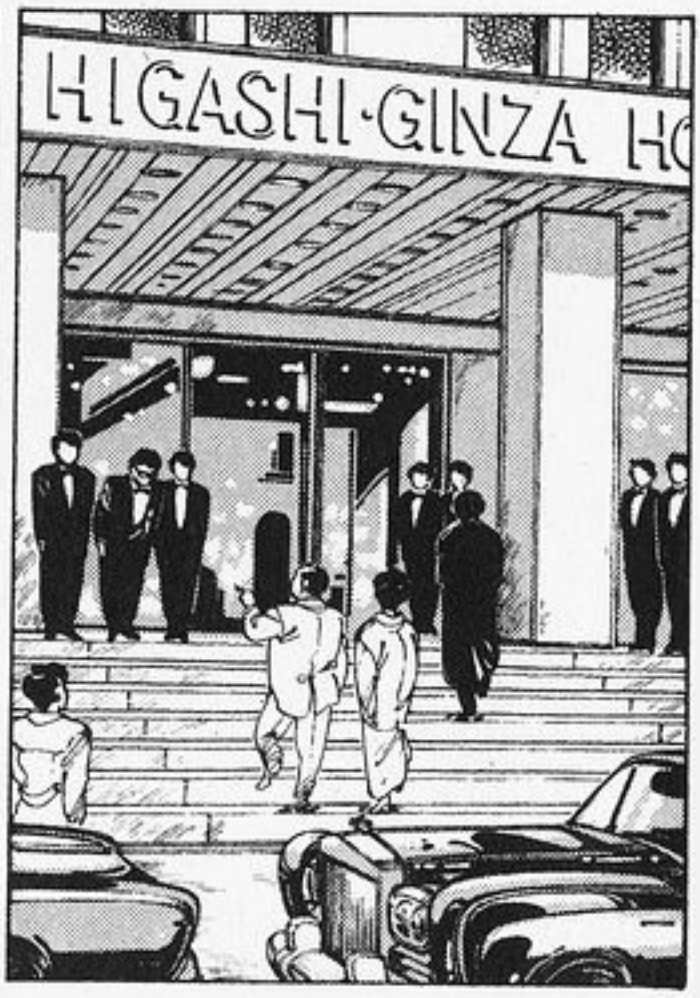
IT'S YOHTO CORPORATION.

8

.....

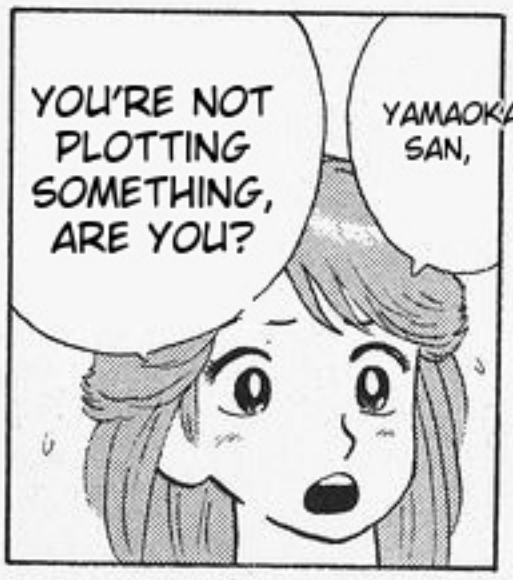
HIGASHI-GINZA HOTEL

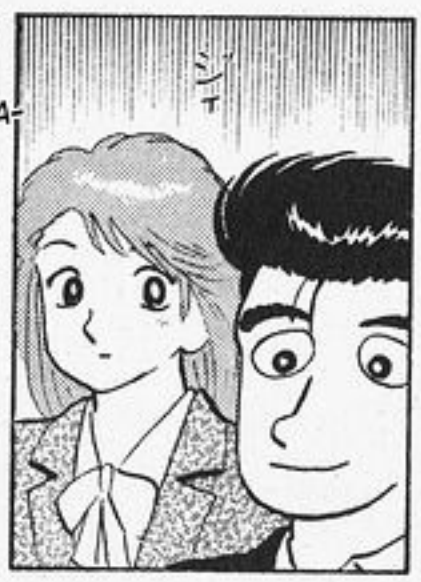
YAMAOKA-KUN, IT'S QUITE A RARITY TO SEE YOU AT A PARTY LIKE THIS...

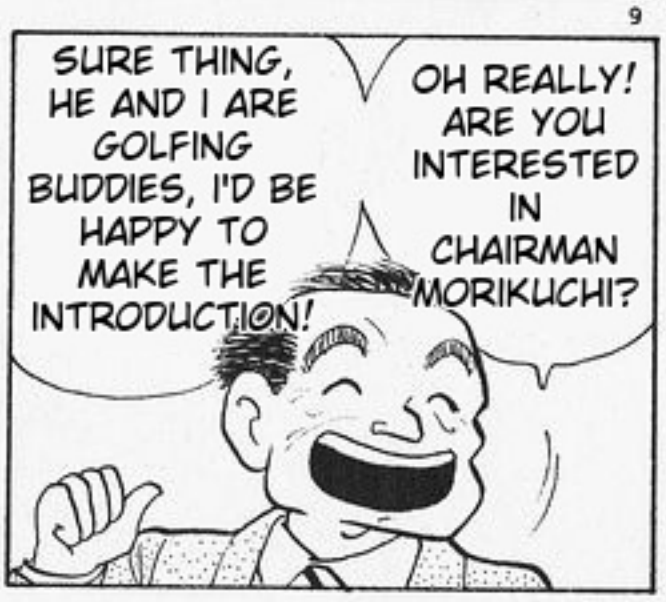

HIGASHI-GINZA HO

ACTUALLY, I'D LIKE TO GET INTRODUCED TO CHAIRMAN MORIKUCHI OF THE YOHTO GROUP.

9


YOU'RE NOT PLOTTING SOMETHING, ARE YOU?
YAMAOKA-SAN,




SURE THING, HE AND I ARE GOLFING BUDDIES, I'D BE HAPPY TO MAKE THE INTRODUCTION!
OH REALLY! ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CHAIRMAN MORIKUCHI?

OH COME ON...

IT'LL BE FINE, STOP ACTING STUPID!

PLEASE, FOR THE LOVE OF ALL THAT'S GOOD, DON'T CAUSE ANY RUCKUS.

WE HUMBLY REQUEST YOUR SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION.

WE ASPIRE TO NURTURE THIS HIGASHI-GINZA HOTEL INTO THE FINEST IN ALL OF JAPAN.

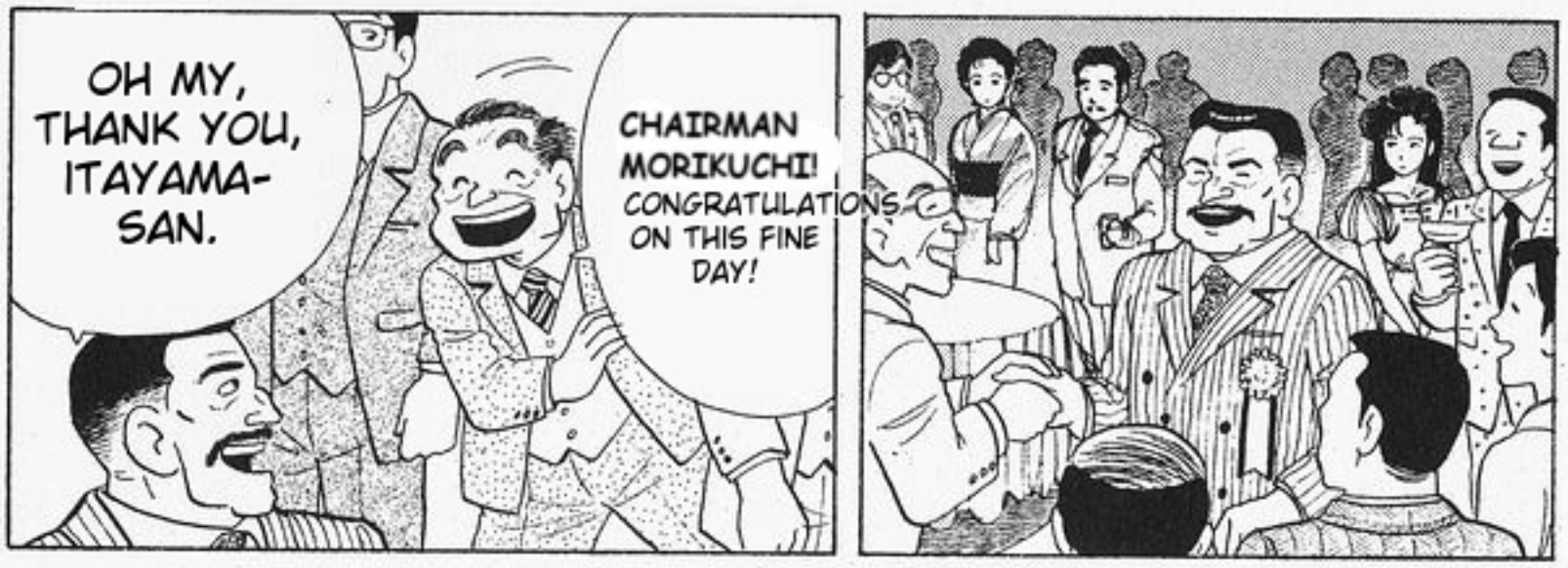
AND WITH THAT BEING SAID,

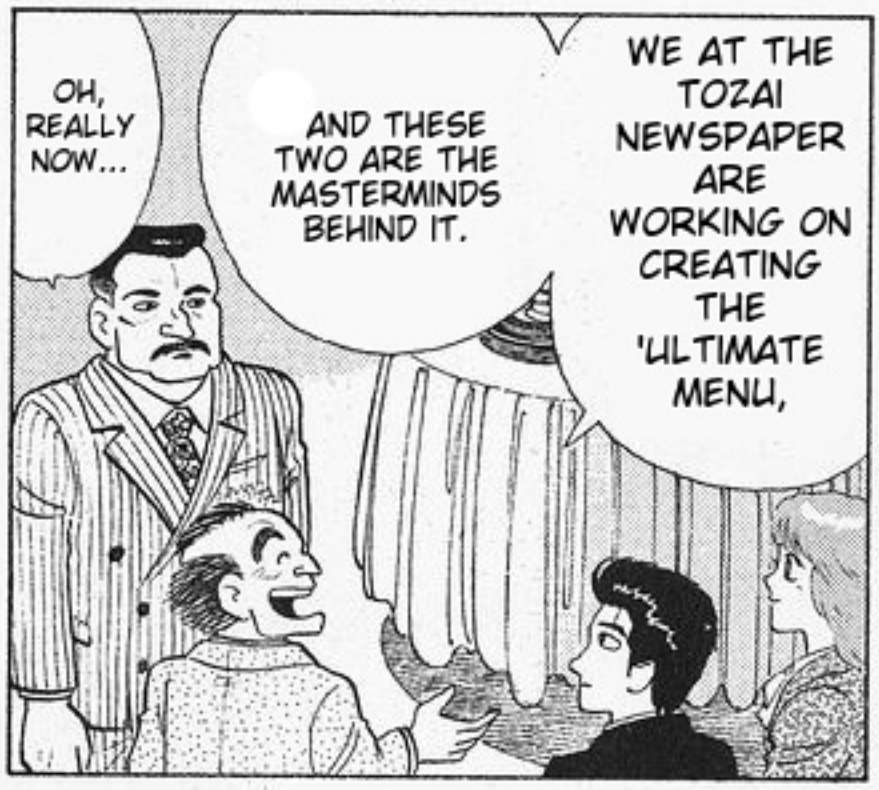
10

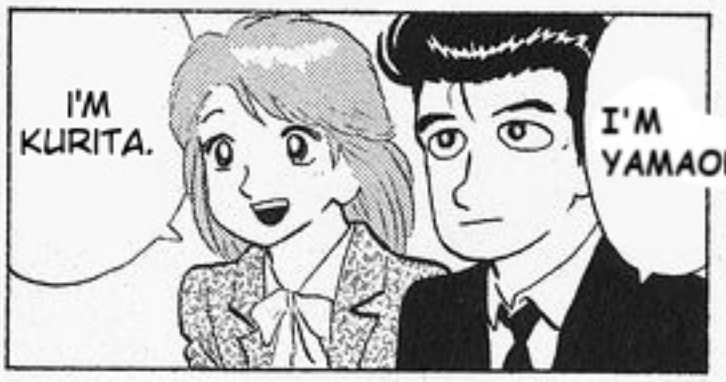
WE SINCERELY HOPE YOU SAVOR EVERY BITE...

OUR HOTEL'S CULINARY TEAM HAS METICULOUSLY PREPARED A FEAST FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT.

DELICIOUS!







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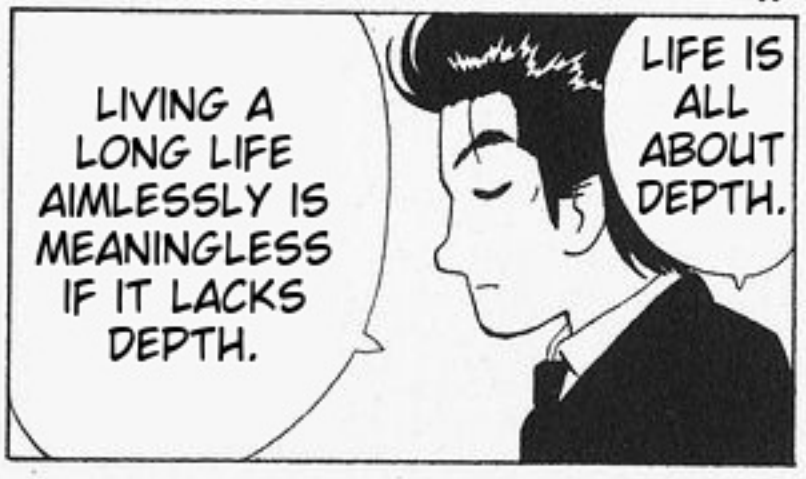


WELL, HOTEL CUISINE TENDS TO PRIORITIZE SAFE INGREDIENTS, OFTEN OPTING FOR THE TRIED AND TRUE.

I SEE.

UNTIL NOW, HOTEL MEALS HAVE FELT RATHER CONSERVATIVE AND LACKING IN FRESHNESS.

WHEN I SET OUT TO ESTABLISH THIS HOTEL, I PLACED A STRONG EMPHASIS ON THE CULINARY DEPARTMENT.

HMM, INDEED... IT SEEMS LIKE THE DINING EXPERIENCE AT THIS HOTEL WILL BE QUITE ENJOYABLE.

I BELIEVE THAT IF WE APPROACH THE CULINARY WORLD WITH A MORE OPEN MIND, JAPAN'S FOOD CULTURE COULD BLOSSOM INTO SOMETHING EVEN RICHER.

INDEED, THE JAPANESE STILL HARBOR CERTAIN BIASES AGAINST SOME INGREDIENTS, OFTEN SHYING AWAY FROM TRYING THEM.

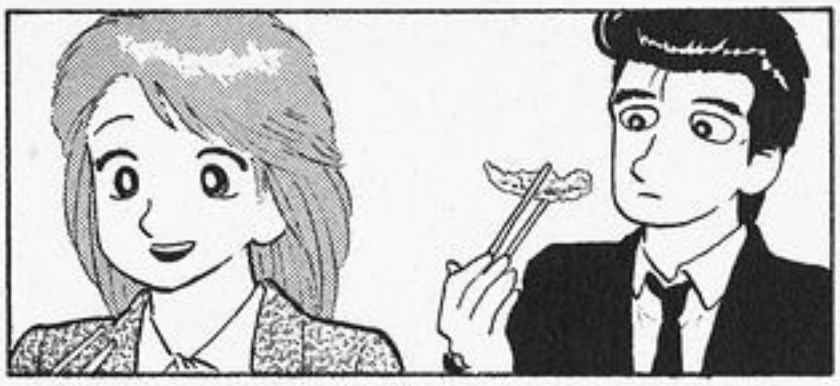
FOR INSTANCE, TAKE A LOOK AT THE DISHES WE HAVE PREPARED HERE...

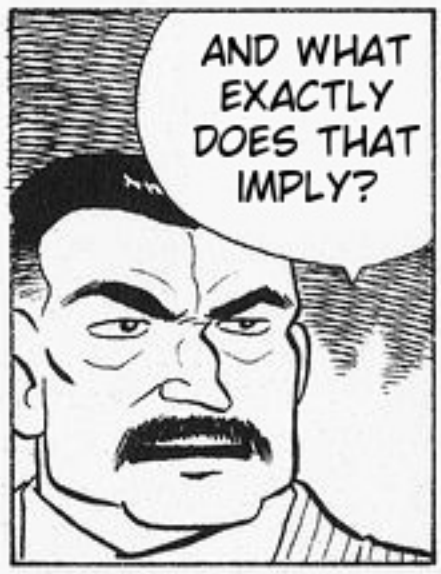
SPEAKING OF WHICH, THE CHINESE ARE TRULY REMARKABLE; THEY EMBRACE ALMOST EVERY INGREDIENT UNDER THE SUN.

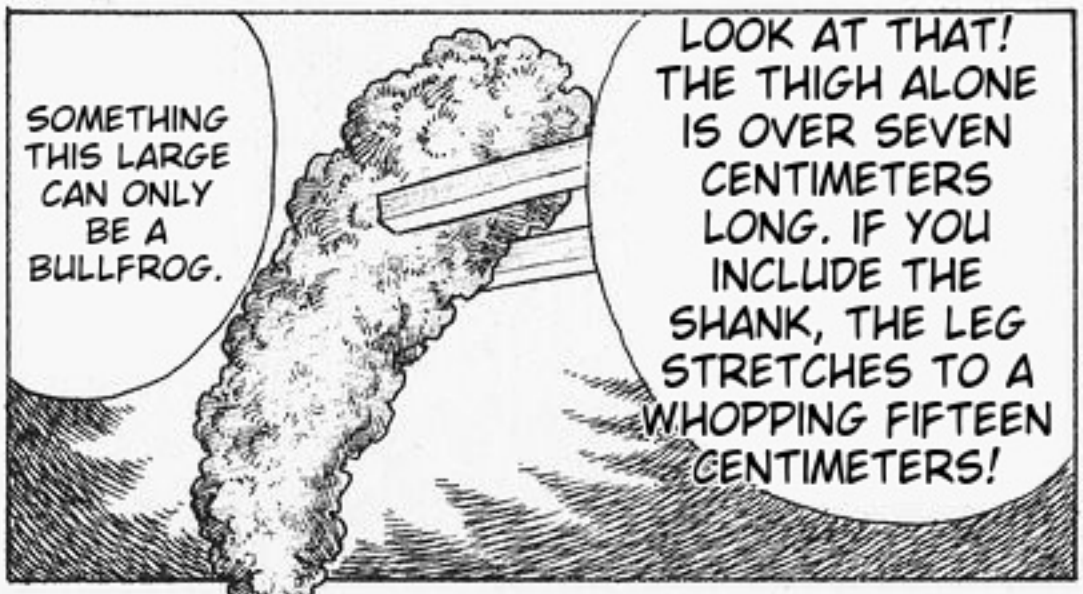
?

DELICIOUS!

IN CHINA, THEY WRITE IT AS 'FIELD CHICKEN' AND CALL IT DENCHI.
WELL, WELL, THAT'S JUST IT! THE FRENCH, AND EVEN THOSE AMERICANS, EAT FROGS, YOU KNOW.
HERE WE HAVE FRIED FROG LEGS.
EW, THAT'S SO GROSS!
WAIT, FROGS?! REALLY?!
IT'S LIGHT, ELEGANT, AND HAS A DEPTH OF FLAVOR.
IF YOU ASK ME, IT'S WAY TASTIER THAN CHICKEN!!
OH REALLY... DOES IT TASTE LIKE CHICKEN?
DENCHI FIELD CHICKEN.
I CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY THAT THERE'S HARDLY ANY OTHER MEAT QUITE LIKE IT.
IT'S MUCH CRUNCHIER THAN CHICKEN.
OH WOW... IT'S SURPRISINGLY MILD, I LIKE IT!
A BIT SCARY, THOUGH...
HMM, SHOULD I GIVE IT A TRY?







*TL NOTE: I LOOKED IT UP, THEY REALLY DO CALL IT "FIELD CHICKEN". I FEEL LIKE "POND CHICKEN" MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE, BUT WHO AM I TO SAY?

IT'S MUCH SMALLER THAN A BULLFROG.

THE TIANJI FROG IS A LITTLE GEM, RESEMBLING THE JAPANESE RED FROG AND THE COMMON FROG IN BOTH SHAPE AND SIZE.

THE TIANJI HAS A FAR RICHER, MORE INTRICATE, AND NUANCED FLAVOR.

THE BULLFROG, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS A MUCH BLUNTER EXPERIENCE.

WE'LL PROMPTLY BRING IN THE REAL DEAL FROM HONG KONG, SO EVERYONE CAN HAVE ANOTHER TASTE OF THE TIANJI FROG— PLEASE BEAR WITH US.

I APOLOGIZE; THIS YOUNG MAN IS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

THIS ISN'T THE FROG I SAVORED IN HONG KONG OR GUANGZHOU...!

Y- YOU'RE RIGHT...

15

GET THIS DISH OFF THE TABLE, NOW!!

Y- YES!!

PERHAPS SOMEONE IN THE KITCHEN MISINTERPRETED...

GOODNESS, I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO BOLD IN MY SUGGESTION...

THANK YOU, I REALLY APPRECIATE IT!

MY, MY, IF YOU HADN'T BEEN HERE, I WOULD HAVE MADE A COLOSSAL BLUNDER!

OH, THAT'S SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE!

NO, REALLY, IT'S TRUE, MORIKUCHI'S STATURE HAS TRULY SHONE THROUGH!

A MORE PETTY PERSON WOULD'VE BEEN INSULTED, BUT NOT HIM!

OH, COME NOW, MORIKUCHI IS TRULY REMARKABLE.

AH, WHEN IT COMES TO THE LEADERS OF THE YOTO GROUP, THEIR STOMACHS ARE ON A WHOLE DIFFERENT LEVEL, AREN'T THEY?

WOW!

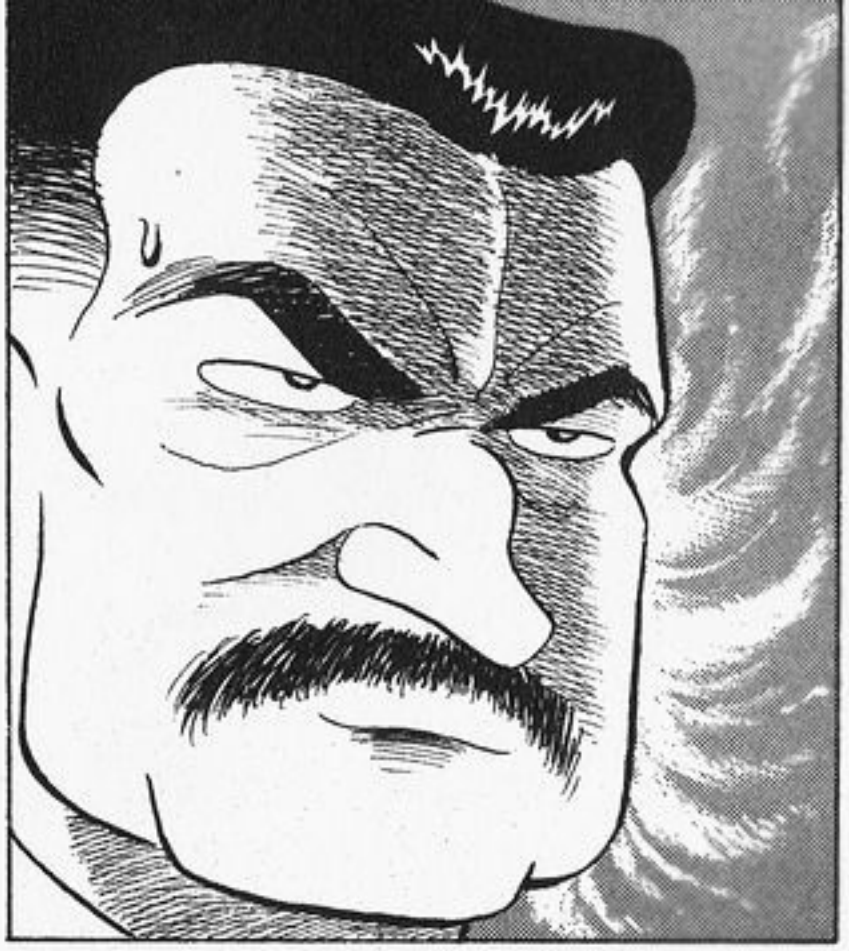
IT SHARES A SIMILAR FLAVOR, BUT THIS FRIED CHICKEN HAS LAYERS OF COMPLEXITY AND DEPTH, BURSTING WITH RICH, VIBRANT TASTE FAR SURPASSING TANEGAI'S!

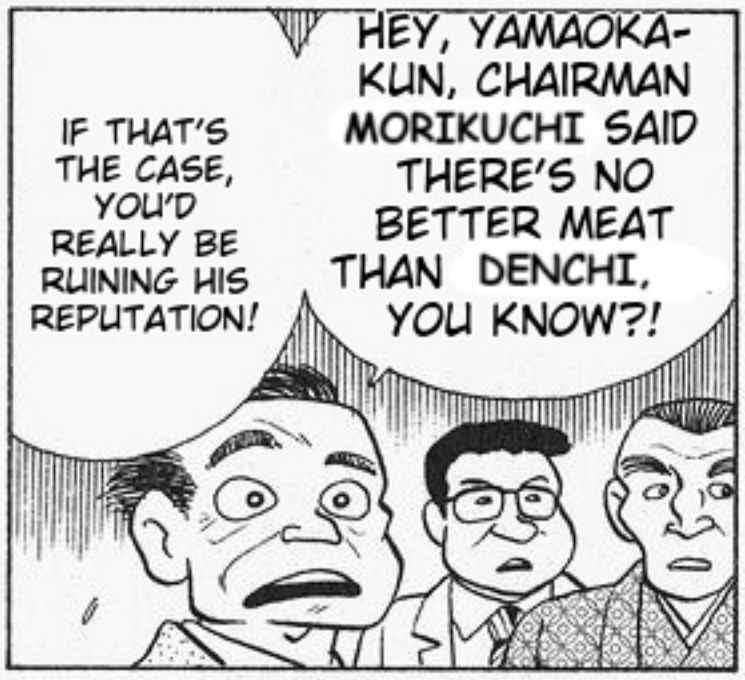
ABSOLUTELY!

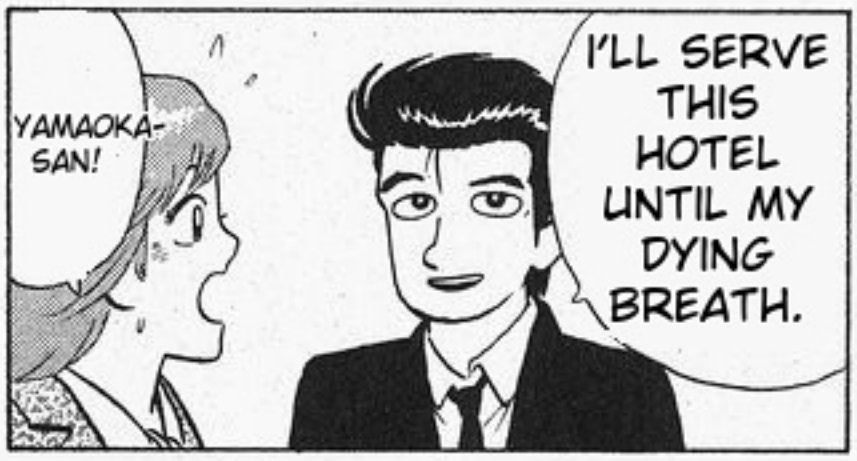
HEY, MORIKUCHI, WHILE WE'RE AT IT, HOW ABOUT TREATING ME TO SOME FRIED CHICKEN THAT'S EVEN TASTIER THAN DENCHI!

WHAT! A FRIED CHICKEN THAT'S BETTER THAN DENCHI?!

*TL NOTE: I WOULD FIX THIS PANEL IF I COULD. IT WOULD DESTROY THE ART IN IT AND THE PANEL ABOVE, THOUGH. SO, MY APOLOGIES FOR NOT DOING SO.




HEY, YAMAOKA-KUN, CHAIRMAN MORIKUCHI SAID THERE'S NO BETTER MEAT THAN DENCHI, YOU KNOW?!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, YOU'D REALLY BE RUINING HIS REPUTATION!


I'LL SERVE THIS HOTEL UNTIL MY DYING BREATH.
YAMAOKA-SAN!

ALRIGHT, YOUNG ONE, LET'S FEAST THEN!!
BUT WHAT IF THAT FRIED CHICKEN ISN'T TASTIER THAN DENCHI?

IS IT REALLY OKAY TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST JOKE ABOUT THAT STUFF WITH CHAIRMAN MORIKUCHI?

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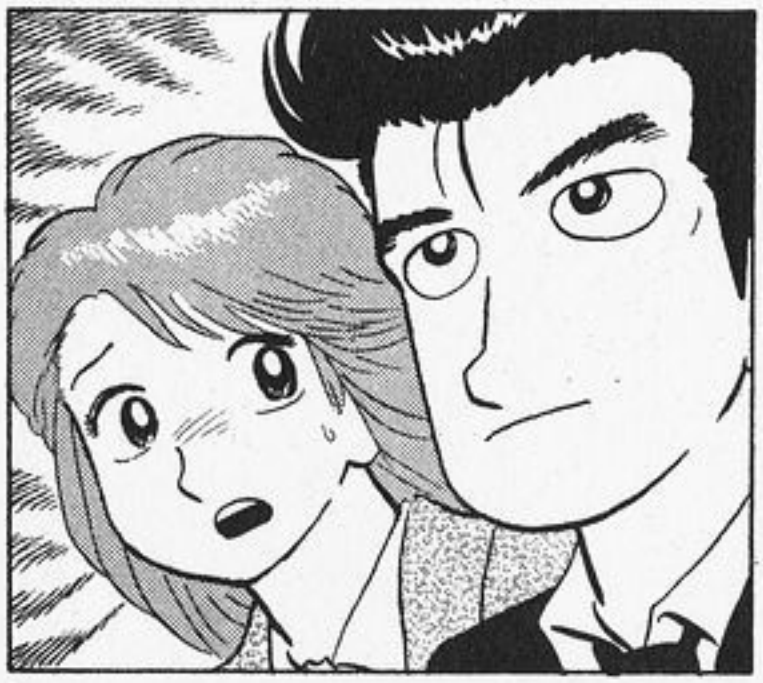

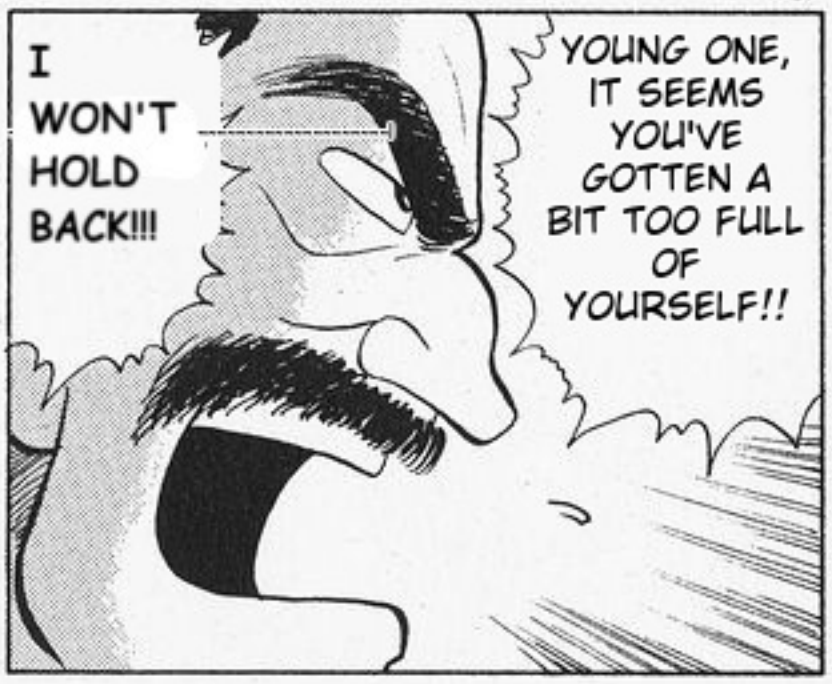
YOUNG ONE, IT SEEMS YOU'VE GOTTEN A BIT TOO FULL OF YOURSELF!!
I WON'T HOLD BACK!!!

INTEREST?..

COFFEE

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING SO PROVOCATIVE?!

I'LL PAY YOU BACK... WITH INTEREST.

IF IT DOESN'T WORK,

OH... I REALLY THOUGHT WE HAD WRAPPED THIS UP NICELY!

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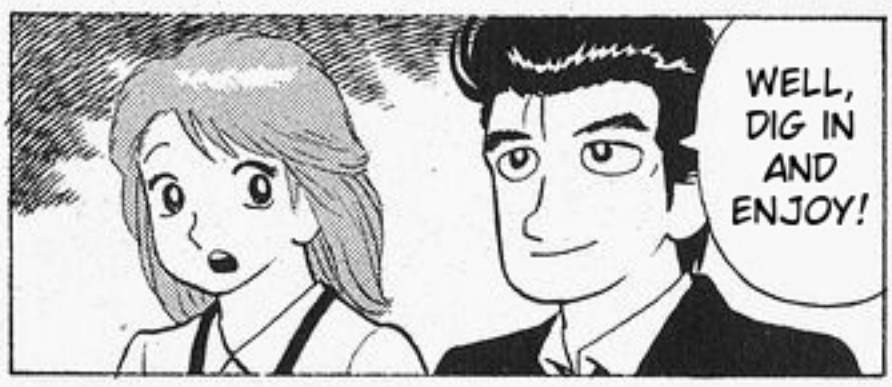
IT MAY NOT BE CHICKEN OR FROG, BUT...
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?

WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS...?


WELL, DIG IN AND ENJOY!

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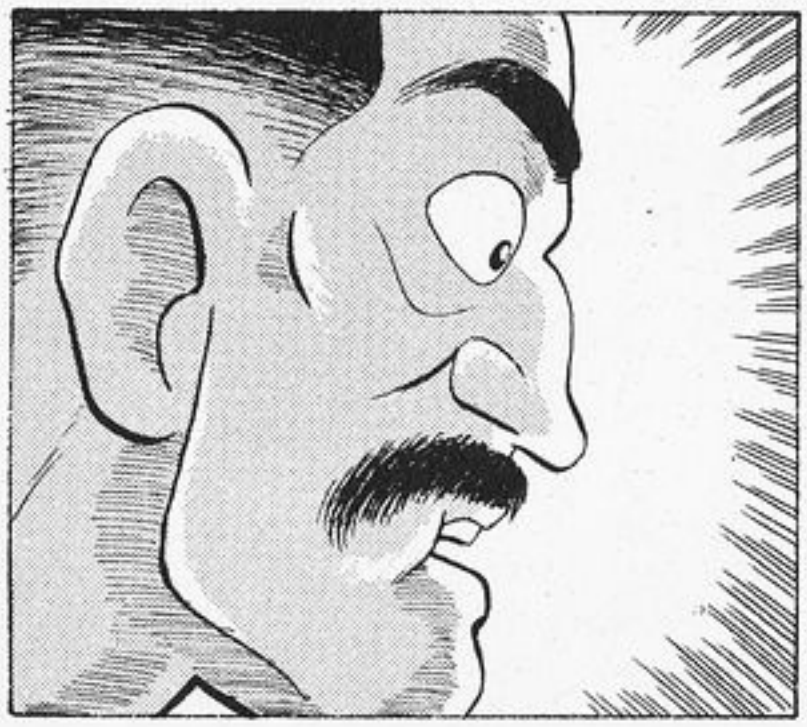


AH, IT'S SO DELICIOUS -!!!

CRISP AND LIVELY TEXTURE, DELICATE YET REFINED WITH A SUBTLY CLEAN TASTE!!

MOREOVER, THE LAYERS OF UMAMI INTERTWINE, CREATING A FLAVOR THAT'S BOTH RICH AND EXQUISITELY PROFOUND!

AND THE REFRESHING FINISH IS SIMPLY DIVINE!

IT TRULY SURPASSES EVEN THE FINEST CHICKEN!!!

SLICE THE PUFFERFISH HEAD DOWN THE CENTER, DIVIDING IT INTO TWO,

THEN, WE CHOP IT INTO QUARTERS AND FRY IT UP CRISPY.

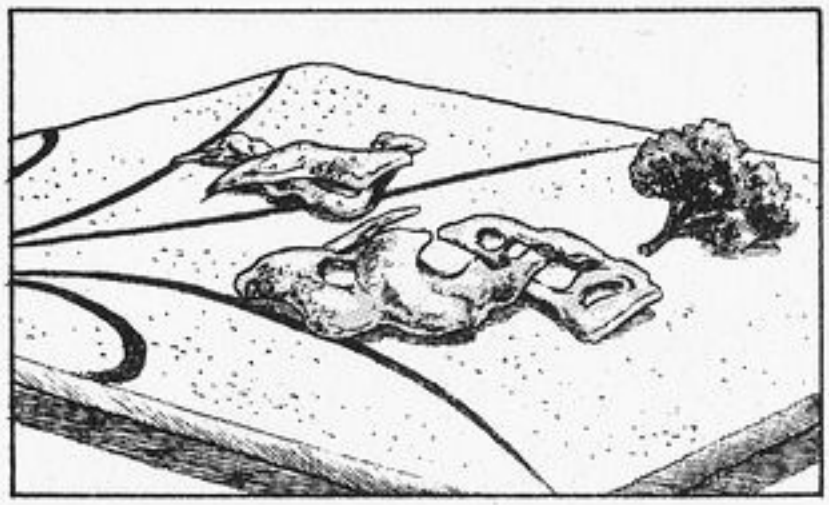
WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS?!?

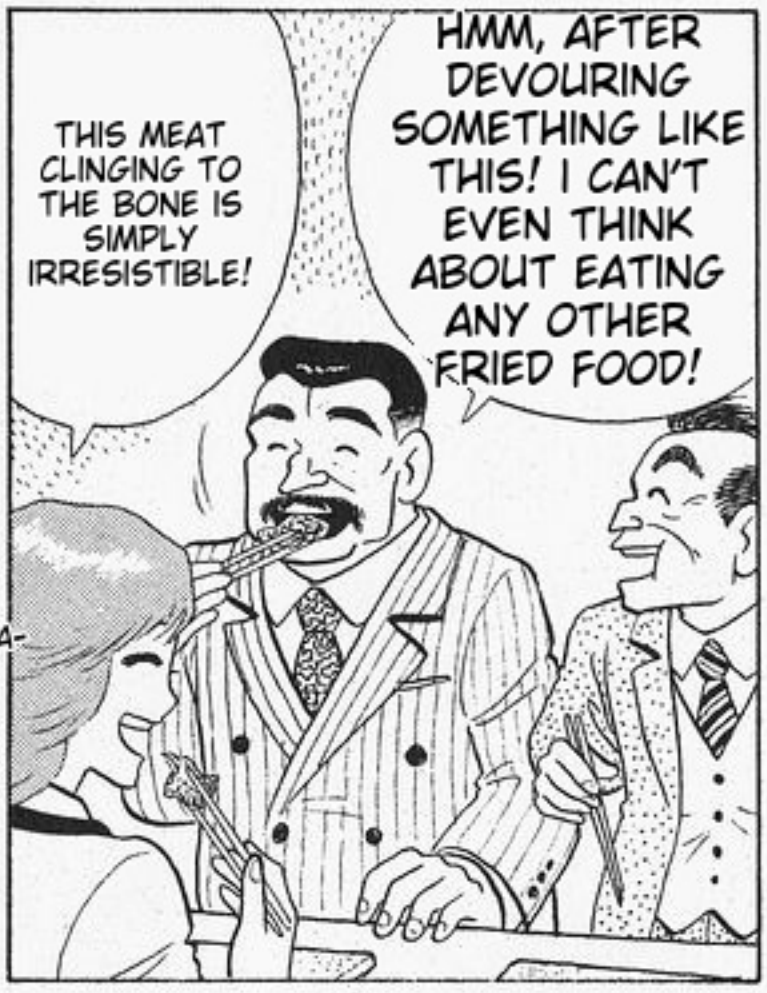
IT SEEMS TO BE FISH, BUT HOW COME THERE'S NOT A HINT OF THAT FISHY SMELL?!!

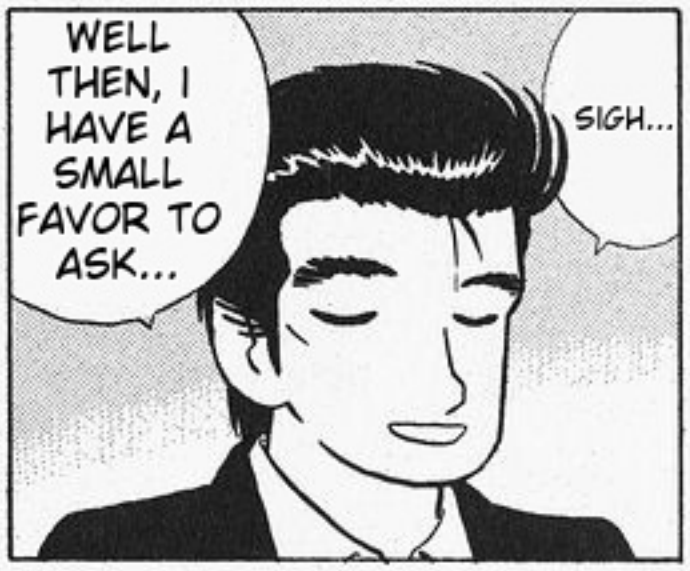
IT'S THE HEAD OF A PUFFERFISH.

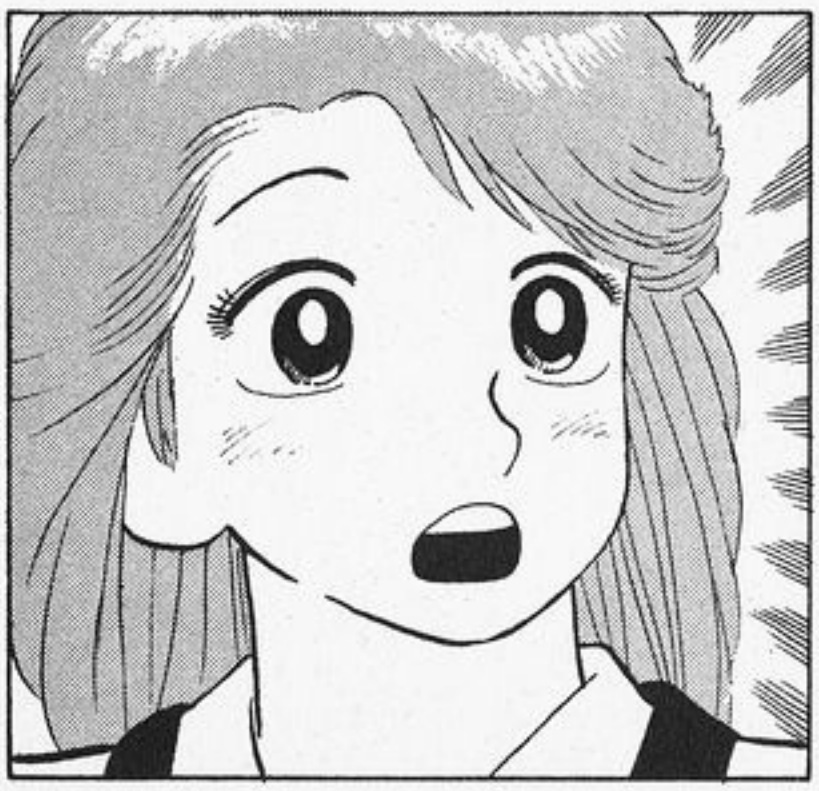
I SEE!!!

DELICIOUS!









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AND GIFTED US THIS LAND.

DID I TELL YOU THE GOOD NEWS? YOHTO INDUSTRIES CHANGED THEIR MINDS.

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BUT... WHY ON EARTH DID THEY SUDDENLY DECIDE TO DONATE THIS LAND?!

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A SPECTACULAR NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION!

NOW, I CAN CARE FOR THE CHILDREN WITHOUT A WORRY IN THE WORLD!

22

I GUESS PERHAPS THEY OWED A FAVOR... WITH INTEREST.

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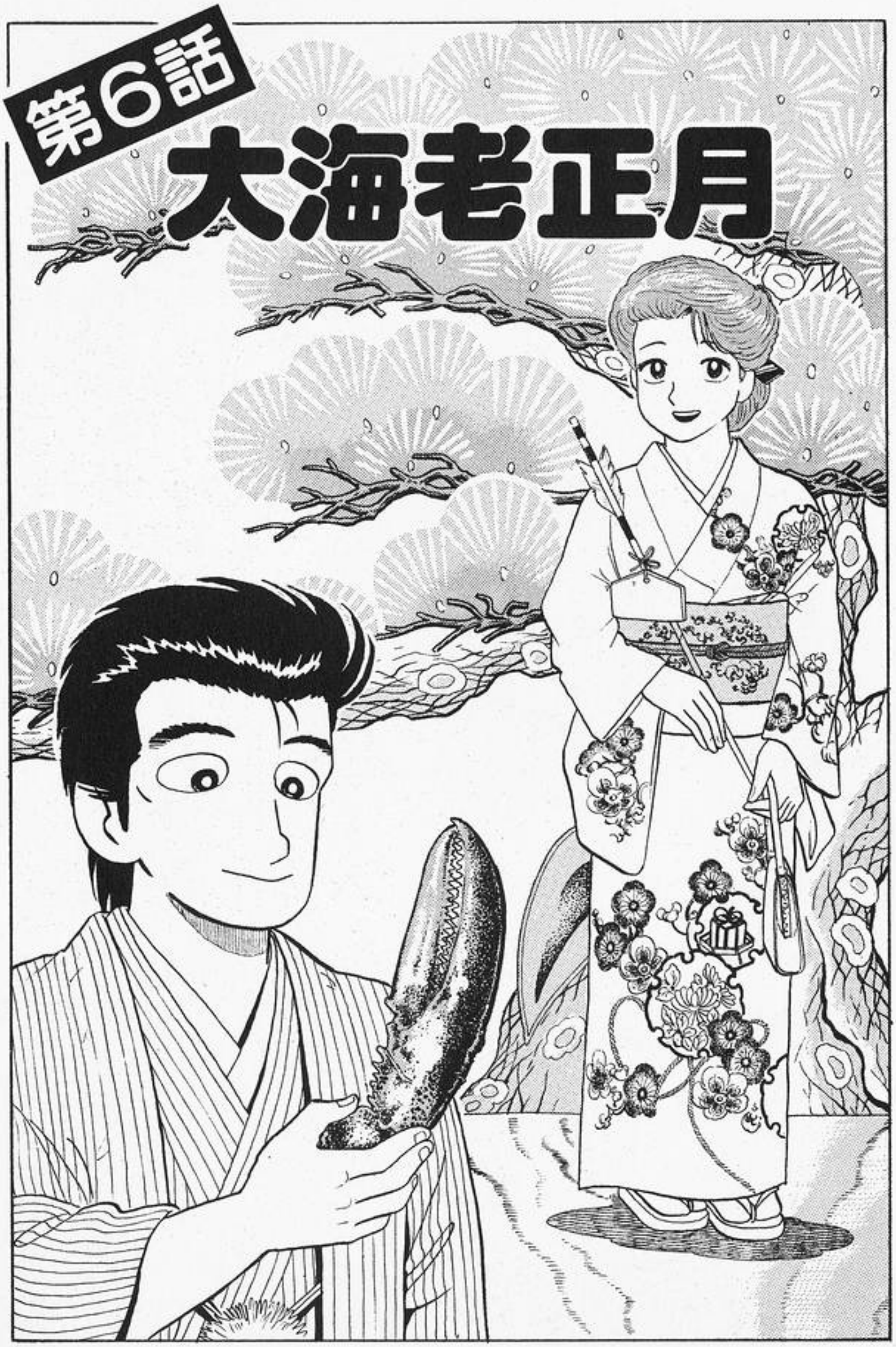

IT LOOKS SO NEAT AND TIDY!

ALRIGHT, THAT'S A WRAP FOR THIS YEAR!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? LOOK HOW BEAUTIFULLY EVERYTHING IS ORGANIZED!!

SO, WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

UNBELIEVABLE!

BUT THINKING ABOUT HOW MESSY IT'LL GET ONCE I START WORKING AGAIN NEXT YEAR...

STILL, IF YOU LOSE THAT DESIRE TO WELCOME THE NEW YEAR IN A TIDY WAY, THEN WHAT'S LEFT OF BEING HUMAN?

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GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT!

COME ON, LET'S DIG INTO OUR YEAR-END SOBA, THIS IS OUR FINAL FEAST!

HEY, THANKS FOR WAITING!

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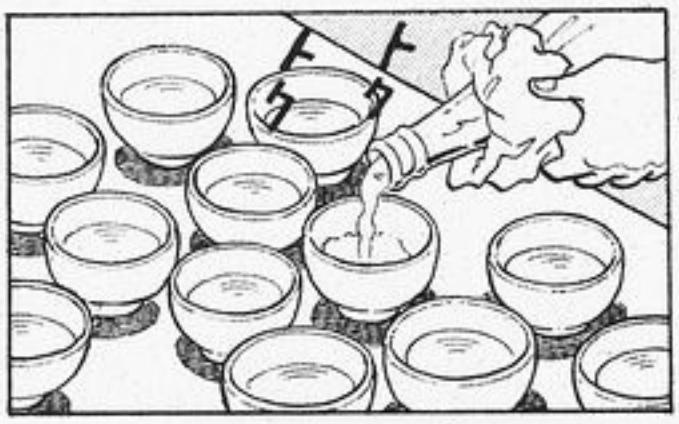
THIS YEAR, EVERYONE DID A FANTASTIC JOB! LET'S KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM NEXT YEAR!

ABSOLUTELY, I'VE GOT EVERYTHING COVERED!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SACRED SAKE?!



NOT YET, HE ISN'T! HE STILL HASN'T FINISHED THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'!
WOW, YAMAOKA, YOU'RE REALLY COMING INTO YOUR OWN!

HEY, YAMAOKA, AREN'T YOU GOING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THIS SOBA BEING OVERCOOKED AND TERRIBLE?

I WOULDN'T SAY SOMETHING SO GAUCHE.
THIS IS A GOOD OMEN, YOU KNOW.

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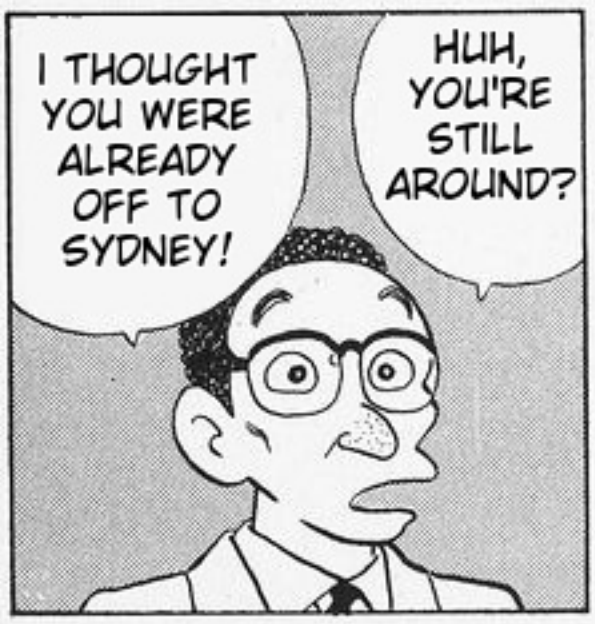
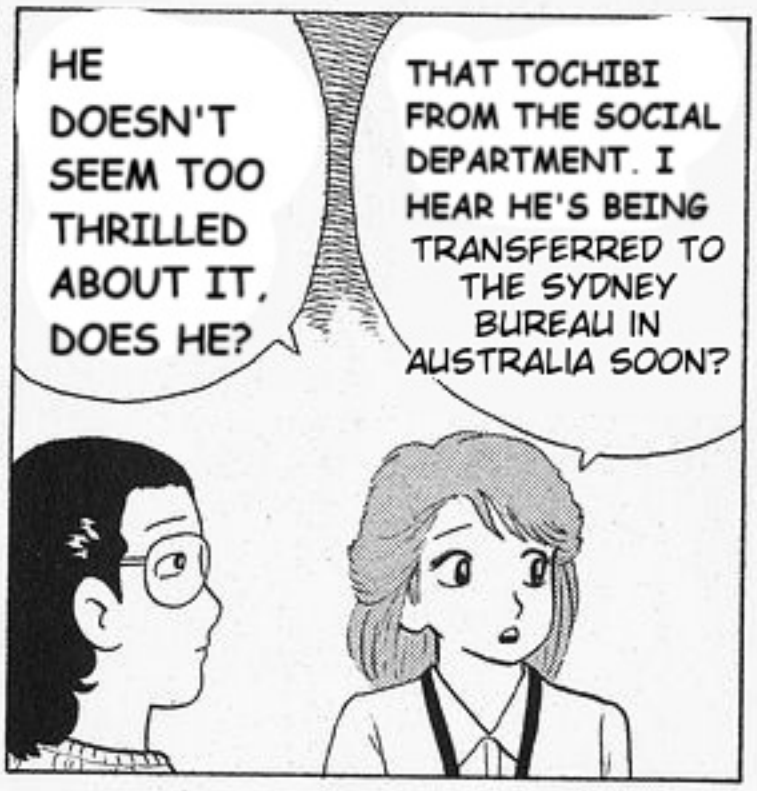

I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALREADY OFF TO SYDNEY!
HUH, YOU'RE STILL AROUND?

HEY THERE, TOCHIBI-KUN!
AH, CULTURAL DEPARTMENT, YOU'RE REALLY ON THE BALL!

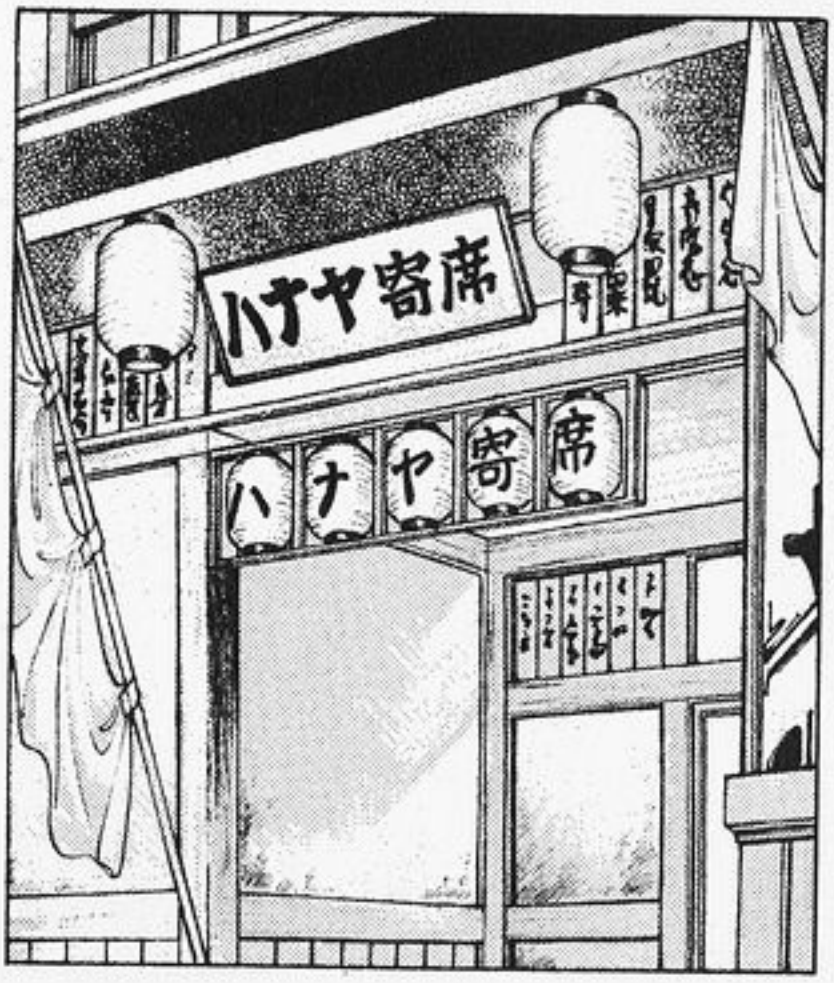
I'M GOING NEXT MONTH.
IT'S AWFUL TO THINK ABOUT...

I GET THE FEELING THERE'S SOMETHING WEIGHING ON HIS MIND...


HE DOESN'T SEEM TOO THRILLED ABOUT IT, DOES HE?
THAT TOCHIBI FROM THE SOCIAL DEPARTMENT. I HEAR HE'S BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE SYDNEY BUREAU IN AUSTRALIA SOON?

IT SEEMS THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN JUST THAT... IT'S COMPLICATED.
IS IT SOMETHING TO DO WITH WORK?

4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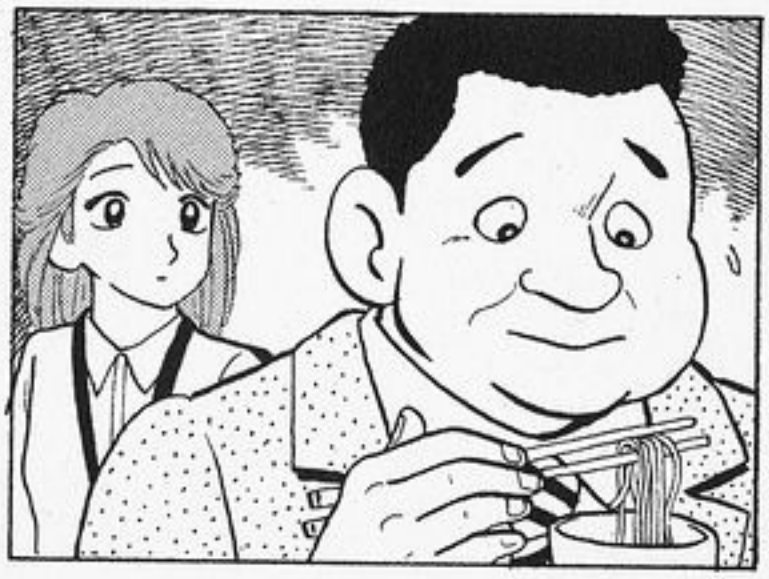
HMM...



DELICIOUS!

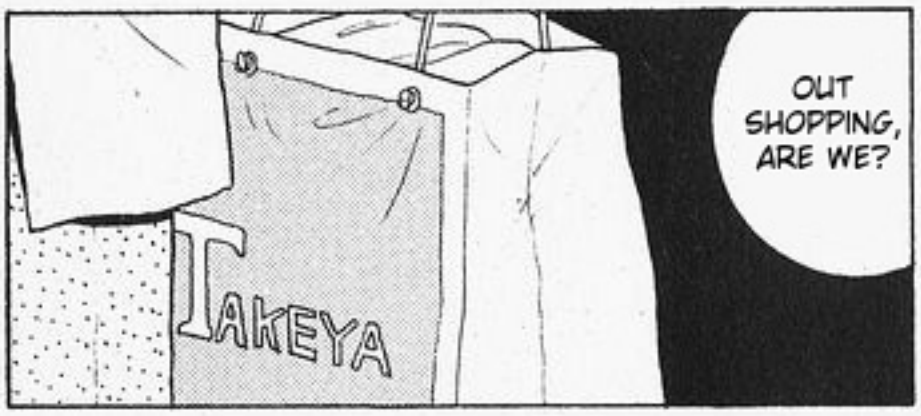
EVERY TIME I LAUGH, I FIND MY STOMACH GRUMBLING AGAIN!

IT WAS SUCH A JOY TO END THE YEAR WITH LAUGHTER ON THE LAST DAY OF WORK!
OH, THAT WAS A RIOT!

LET'S CHARGE STRAIGHT INTO 'OKABOSHI' WITHOUT HOLDING BACK!

OH?
WELL, IF IT ISN'T MR. TOCHIBI?

TAKEYA


OUT SHOPPING, ARE WE?
TAKEYA

5

NICE TO MEET YOU.

OH, THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, TOMOE.
YEAH.

TONIGHT, IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US FOR DINNER.

MY WIFE TOOK THE OTHER KIDS OVER TO HER PARENTS' PLACE...

IF YOU'D LIKE, WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?

HMM... SO WE'RE PLANNING TO GRAB DINNER AT A JAPANESE RESTAURANT, HUH?

YAMAOKA AND KURITA ARE WORKING ON THE ULTIMATE MENU! DO YOU KNOW ANY GOOD PLACES AROUND HERE TO EAT?

OH RIGHT!

WHAT GRADE IS TOMOE IN?

WELL THEN, LET'S GET GOING!

YEAH.

JAPANESE CUISINE? OH, THAT'S FANTASTIC! TOMOE MUST BE THRILLED ABOUT IT TOO.

6

WHOA, MISTAKE! TOMOE AND TABATA ARE ACTUALLY THE SAME AGE!

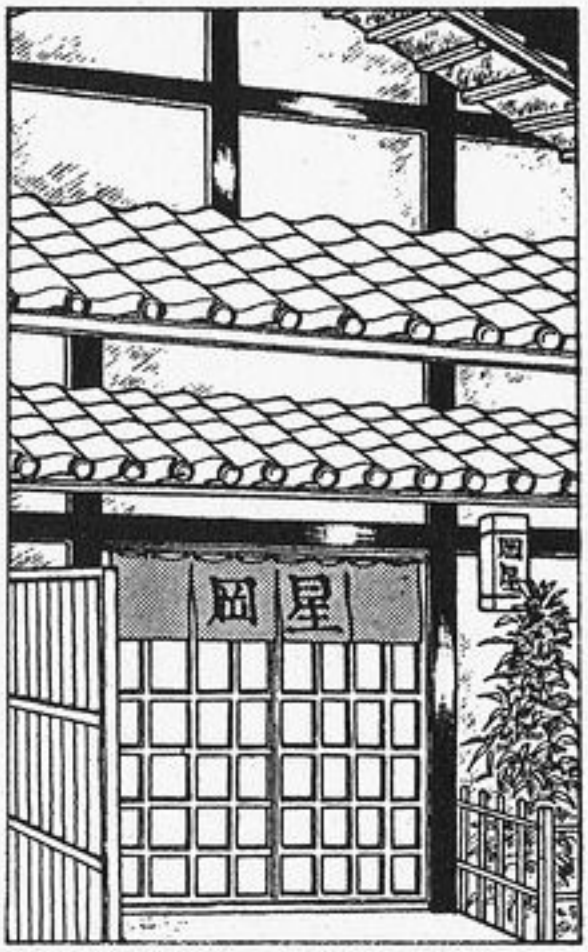
HEY TOCHIBI, I HEARD YAMAOKA IS PICKING UP THE WHOLE TAB TONIGHT!!

I'M IN THE SECOND YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH.

WOW, YOU'RE EVEN LESS THAN A THIRD OF TABATA'S AGE!

DELICIOUS!

OH, TOMOE, WHY ON EARTH DID YOU BUY WINTER CLOTHES?
AUSTRALIA HAS THE SEASONS FLIPPED FROM JAPAN, SO JANUARY MUST BE PEAK SUMMER, RIGHT?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WHAT?! WHY EVER NOT?!

I JUST CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO GO TO AUSTRALIA.
I...

WELL... IT'S JUST...

IT'S ALMOST LIKE A PHOBIA...
MORE LIKE, I HAVE A DEEP-SEATED AVERSION TO FOREIGNERS.
YOU DON'T LIKE FOREIGNERS?

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7

IT'S BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE FOREIGNERS.
BECAUSE I'M TERRIFIED OF FOREIGN PLACES!

I'M REALLY IN A BIND HERE...

THEY DREAM OF FOREIGN LANDS, NOT DESPISE THEM...

I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE HOW THE YOUNG FOLKS TODAY THINK.

AND TO THINK YOU DON'T LIKE FOREIGNERS, AS IF WE WERE BACK IN WARTIME...

IT'S GRILLED SWEET SHRIMP, SEASONED TO PERFECTION.

DOESN'T IT LOOK DELICIOUS?

WAIT, YOU DON'T LIKE SHRIMP?

NO WAY!!

OH MY GOSH, SHRIMP...!!

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8

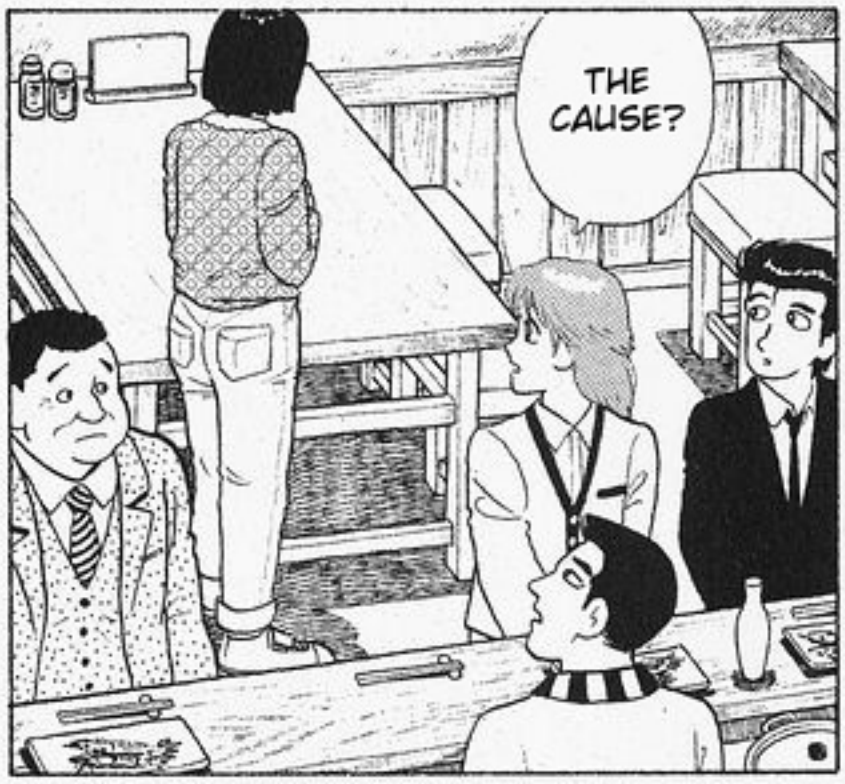
I ABSOLUTELY LOATHE SHRIMP!!

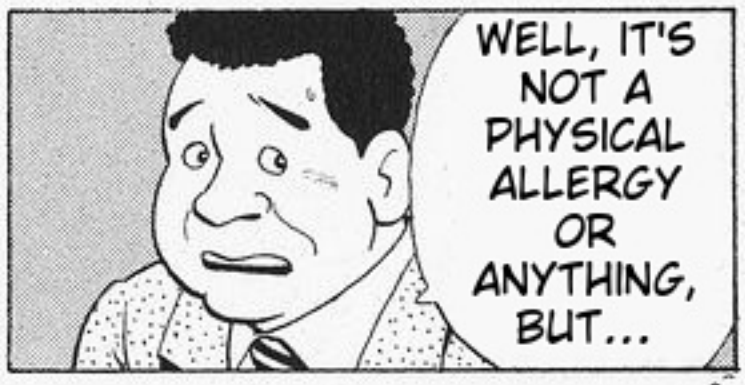
NO WAY!!

DELICIOUS!

THERE ARE QUITE A FEW PEOPLE WHO ARE ALLERGIC TO CRAB AND SHRIMP, YOU KNOW..
OH, NO, IT'S PERFECTLY FINE.

MY DAUGHTER CAN'T EAT SHRIMP OR CRAB.
I'M REALLY SORRY, PLEASE DON'T TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY...


THE CAUSE?


WELL, IT'S NOT A PHYSICAL ALLERGY OR ANYTHING, BUT...

ACTUALLY, MY DAUGHTER'S AVERSION TO FOREIGNERS AND HER DISLIKE OF SHRIMP AND CRAB STEM FROM THE SAME ROOT.

WE HAD A BLAST IN LOS ANGELES, BUT...
WHEN TOMOE WAS IN THIRD GRADE AND HER LITTLE BROTHER WAS IN FIRST, WE TOOK A TRIP TO AMERICA DURING SUMMER VACATION-
IT ALL GOES BACK FIVE YEARS AGO.

HEADING TO THE FAMOUS FISHERMAN'S WHARF IN SAN FRANCISCO NEXT WAS A BIG MISTAKE...

FISHERMANS WHARF OF SAN FRANCISCO

DAD, YOU SMELL!

I FEEL SO QUEASY.

CRESCI BROS

CRESCI BROS CRABS

IT STINKS! IT STINKS...

BUT EVERYTHING'S SO STALE; I WONDER IF EVERYONE HERE EATS THIS AND DOESN'T GET SICK?

IT REALLY STINKS, DOESN'T IT?

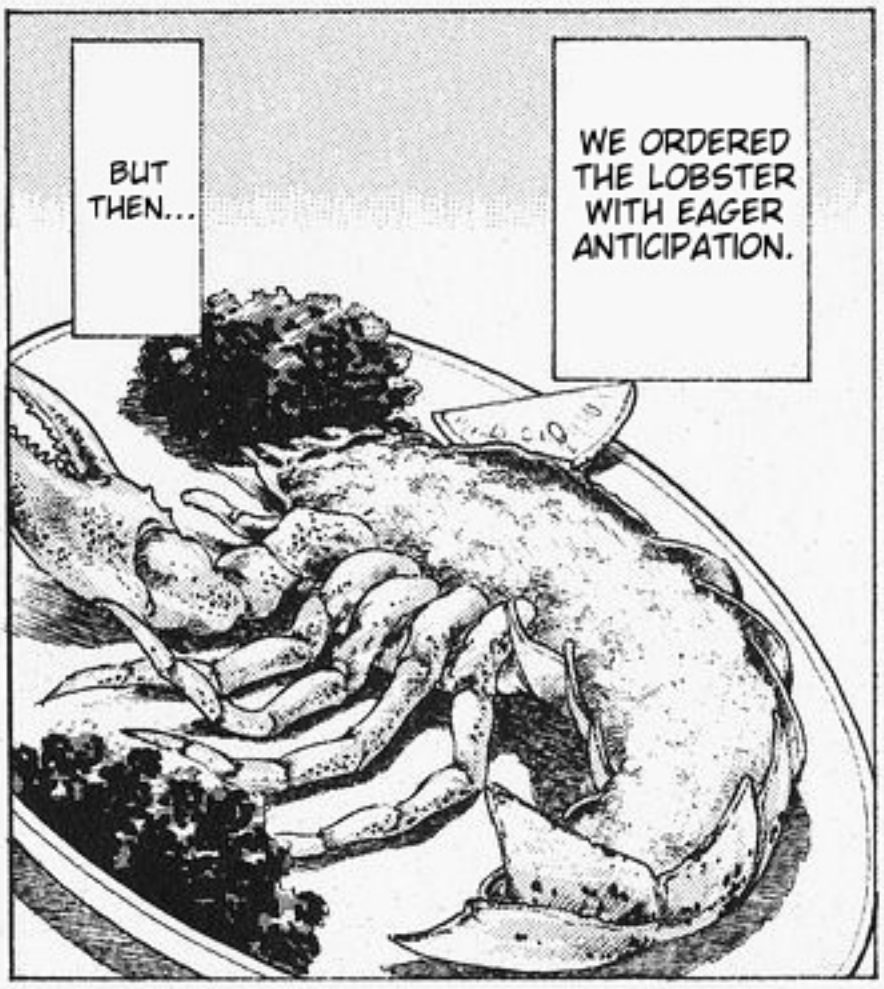
WE'RE GOING TO POP INTO THAT RESTAURANT RIGHT THERE.

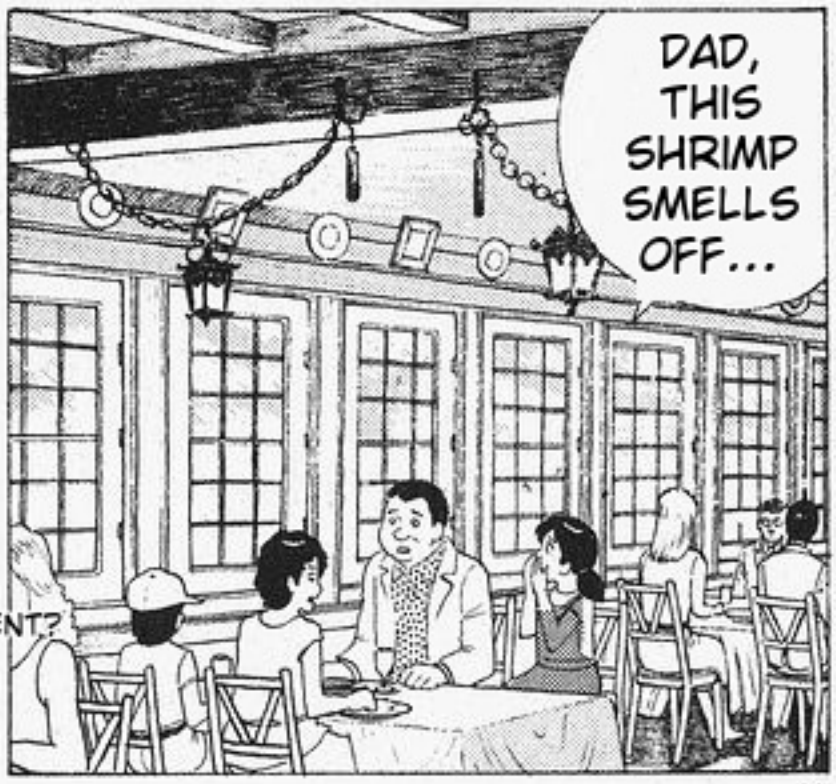
JUST HANG IN THERE A LITTLE LONGER!

MAYBE IT'S JUST THE SUMMER HEAT?...

BUT THE GUIDEBOOK SAYS IT'S A TREASURE TROVE OF FRESH SEAFOOD...

DELICIOUS!





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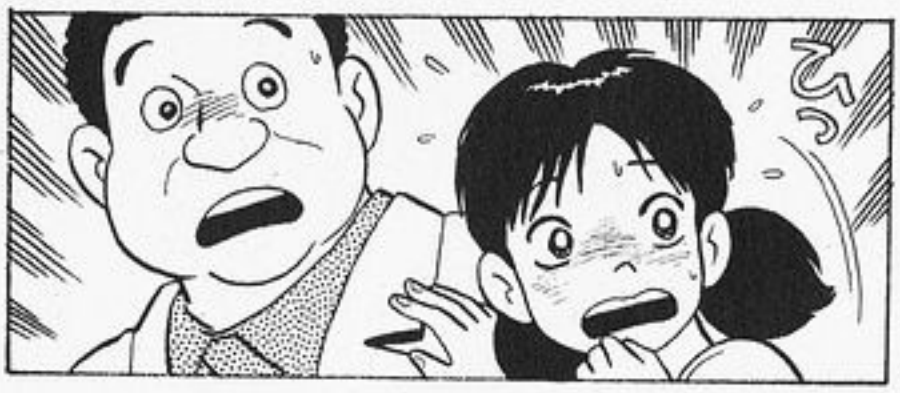

WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU MEAN BY CRITICIZING OUR SHRIMP!?
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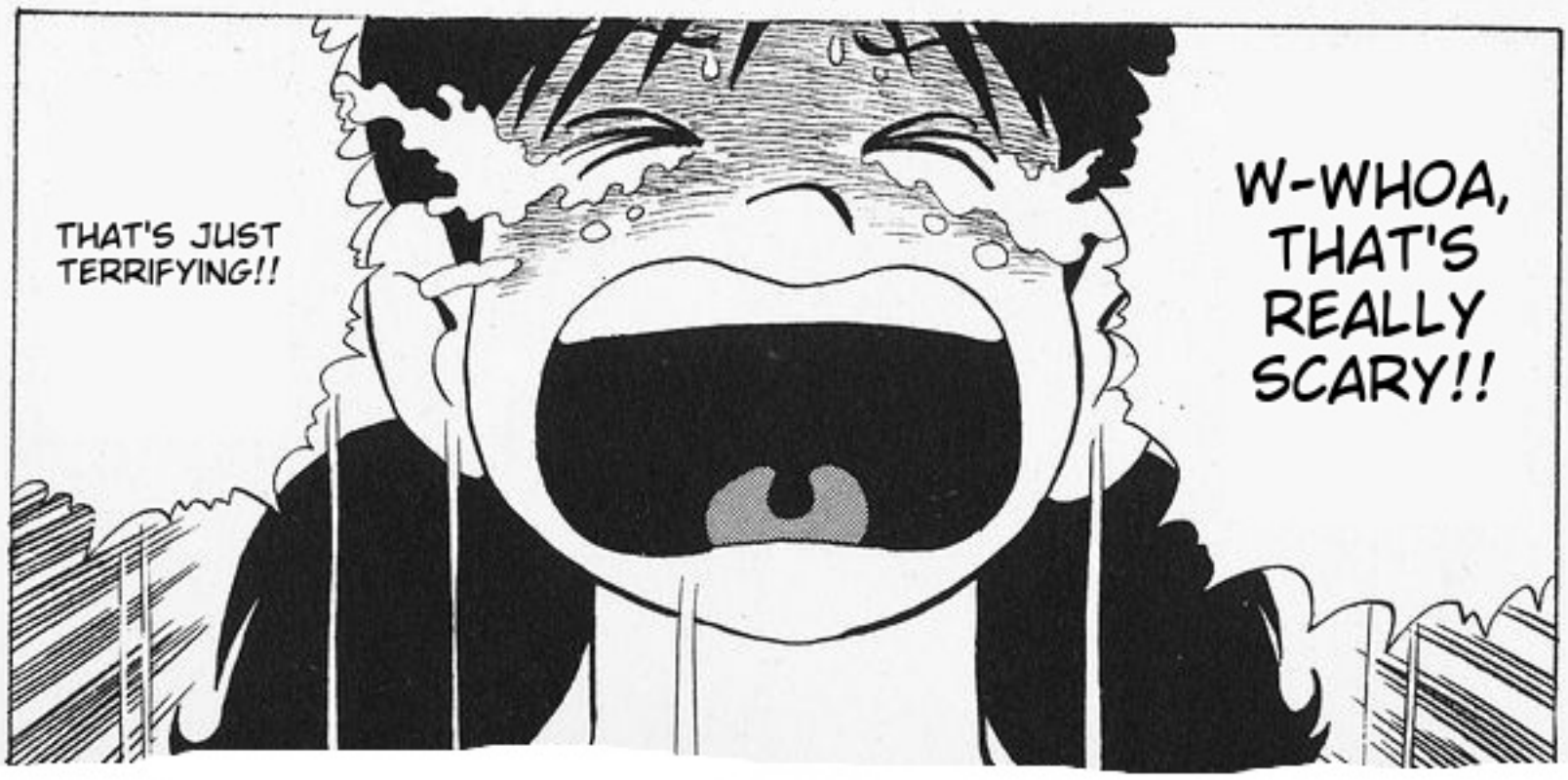
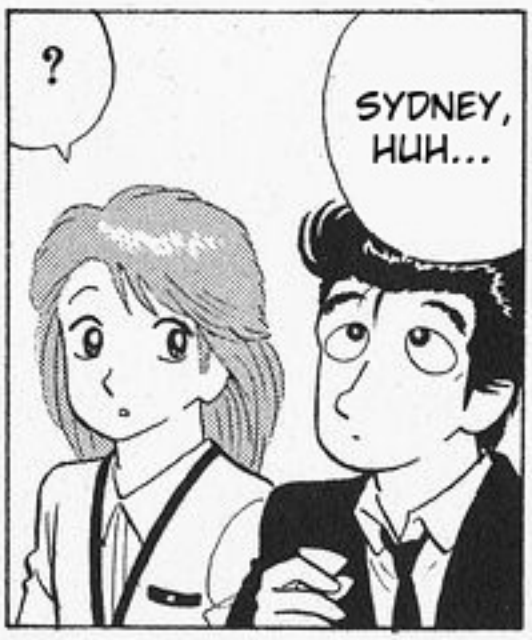
OUR SHOP IS FAMOUS FOR USING THE FINEST INGREDIENTS!!

YOU WON'T FIND A BETTER LOBSTER ANYWHERE ELSE!!


THAT'S JUST TERRIFYING!!
W-WHOA, THAT'S REALLY SCARY!!

DELICIOUS!

13



PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE COME TOGETHER.

ABSOLUTELY, I WOULD LOVE TO!

WELL... IS IT OKAY IF I JOIN?

.....!

ON THE THIRD DAY OF THE NEW YEAR, WE GATHER WITH OUR CLOSEST FRIENDS FOR A FEAST OF DELICIOUS TREATS.

THANK YOU! I CAN'T WAIT TO BE PART OF IT!

OH, I SEE... HOW INTRIGUING...

SEE? MY NOSE IS TWITCHING WITH EXCITEMENT!

AND IT SEEMS YAMAOKA HAS HAD A SUDDEN INSPIRATION REGARDING TOMOE.

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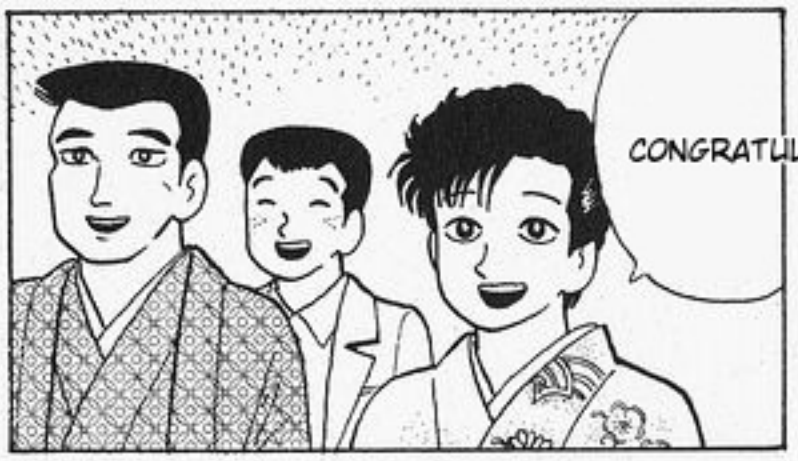
THE NEW YEAR, THE THIRD DAY-

DELICIOUS!

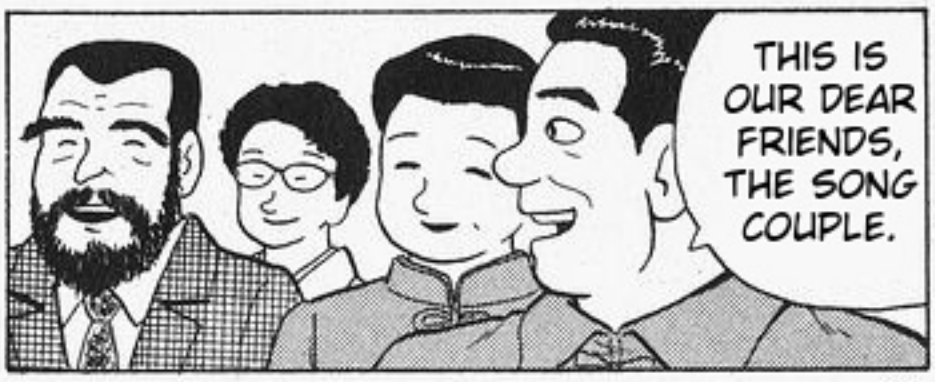
YO!
HEY, CHEERS TO YOU!


CONGRATULATIONS!

CONGRATULATIONS!

BY THE WAY, THIS IS RASHID ALI, OUR ARAB FRIEND.
HERE'S TO ANOTHER WONDERFUL YEAR AHEAD!

LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!


THIS IS OUR DEAR FRIENDS, THE SONG COUPLE.

HELLO!
WE'VE COME TO CRASH THE PARTY AS A FAMILY TODAY.

MEET MUGABE, WHO HAILS ALL THE WAY FROM AFRICA!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

SHH! TOMOE.

WOW, THERE ARE SO MANY FOREIGNERS HERE...!

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HEY FRANK, OVER HERE!

THANK YOU! HERE YOU GO, WANG.

LOOK WHAT I BROUGHT WITH ME!

G'DAY!

GOT IT, LOUD AND CLEAR!

16

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SURE!

!

FRANK, TAKE A SEAT OVER THERE.

DELICIOUS!

I'M ACTUALLY TRANSFERRING TO THE SYDNEY BRANCH OF THE TOZAI NEWS.
OH, FROM SYDNEY, I SEE.
FRANK IS A RESIDENT OF SYDNEY, YOU KNOW.
I RUN INTO HIM SOMETIMES AT THE FISH MARKET. HIS JAPANESE HAS GOTTEN GOOD!

UM... IT'S TOMOE...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, IF YOU DON'T MIND ME ASKING?
IF YOU EVER HAVE QUESTIONS OR RUN INTO TROUBLE, DON'T HESITATE TO CALL ME; I'M HERE TO HELP!
ALRIGHT! SO, WE'RE NEIGHBORS IN SYDNEY NOW, HUH?

OH, IS THERE STILL MORE?

LOOK, HERE IT COMES, THAT'S IT!

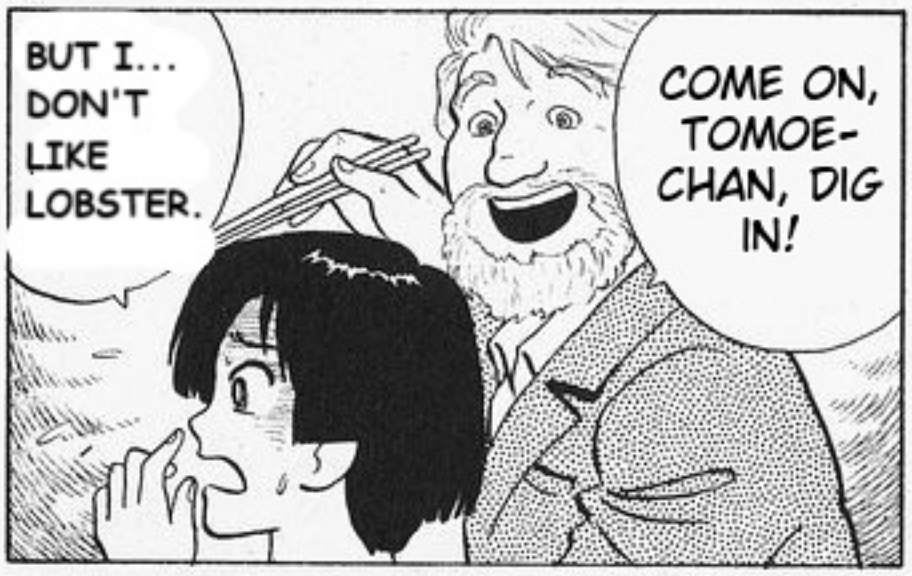
THIS MUST BE YAMAOKA'S SCHEME, SURROUNDING HIMSELF WITH FOREIGN GUESTS!
YEAH, THE FIRST PART OF THE SCHEME IS...

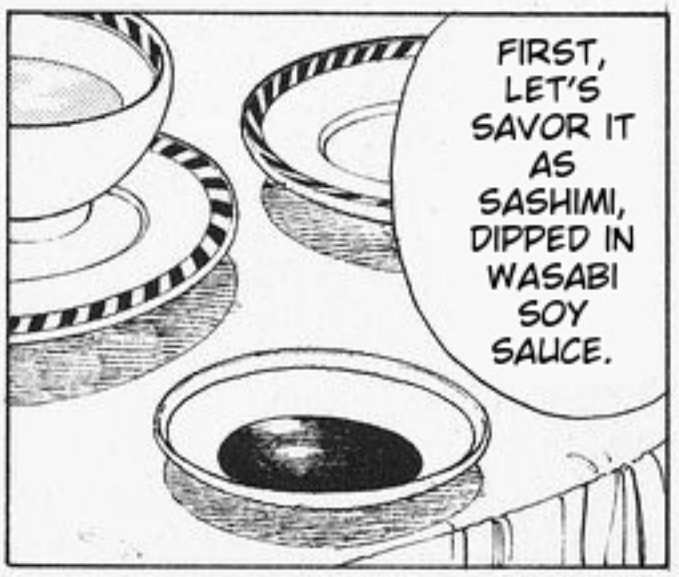
AND HOW OLD ARE YOU?
WHAT A LOVELY NAME!
17

I'M FOURTEEN.

EVERYONE, GIVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR FRANK!
THIS LOBSTER HAILS FROM THE SHORES OF AUSTRALIA! IT WAS JUST BROUGHT IN BY FRANK FROM SYDNEY.

18


BUT I... DON'T LIKE LOBSTER.
COME ON, TOMOE-CHAN, DIG IN!


FIRST, LET'S SAVOR IT AS SASHIMI, DIPPED IN WASABI SOY SAUCE.

DELICIOUS!

PEOPLE OFTEN SAY THAT THE UNIQUE SMELL OF SHRIMP AND CRAB IS ACTUALLY THE SCENT OF DECAY.
SHRIMP AND CRAB START TO SMELL BAD AS SOON AS THEY DIE...
FRESH SHRIMP AND CRAB HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO FISHY ODOR AT ALL.

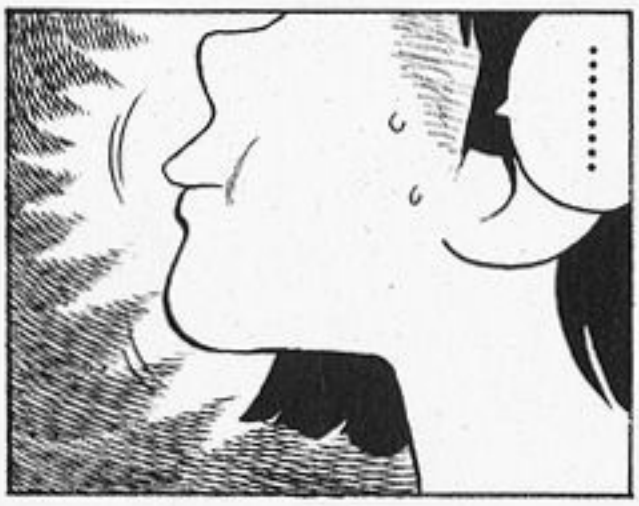
DOES IT SMELL WEIRD TO YOU?
TOMOE, TAKE A WHIFF.

NOT AT ALL...
...OH MY!

TOMOE, GO AHEAD AND EAT.

PLEASE, JUST EAT IT.
IF IT'S BAD, YOU CAN TAKE MY HEAD.

IT REALLY DOESN'T SMELL AT ALL!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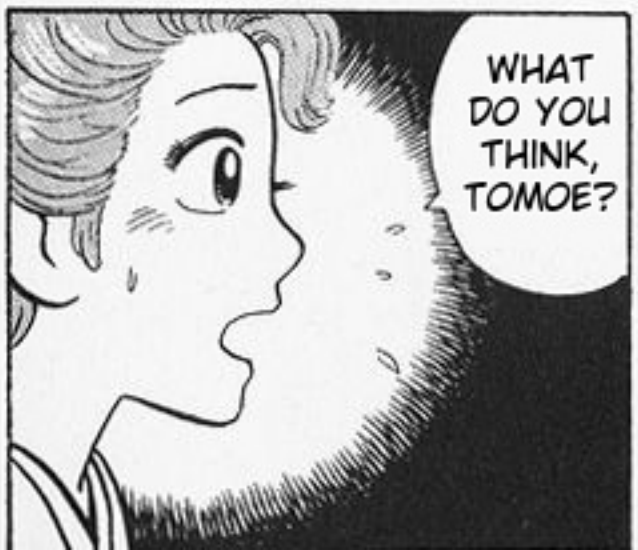

WHAT DO YOU THINK, TOMOE?

I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT...

THE TEXTURE IS SO SMOOTH, I ABSOLUTELY ADORE THIS!!

IT'S INCREDIBLY SWEET!! AND IT HAS SUCH A DELIGHTFUL AROMA!!

EVEN THOUGH IT'S THIS BIG, THE FLAVOR ISN'T OVERWHELMING AT ALL!

OF COURSE IT'S DELICIOUS! AUSTRALIAN LOBSTER IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD!

TOMOE!!

THANK GOODNESS!!

I SEE, WE PUT TOO MUCH FAITH IN THE GUIDEBOOK.

20

I HAD TO RELY ON MY OWN FEET, TASTE BUDS, AND SENSE OF SMELL TO SEARCH FOR IT...

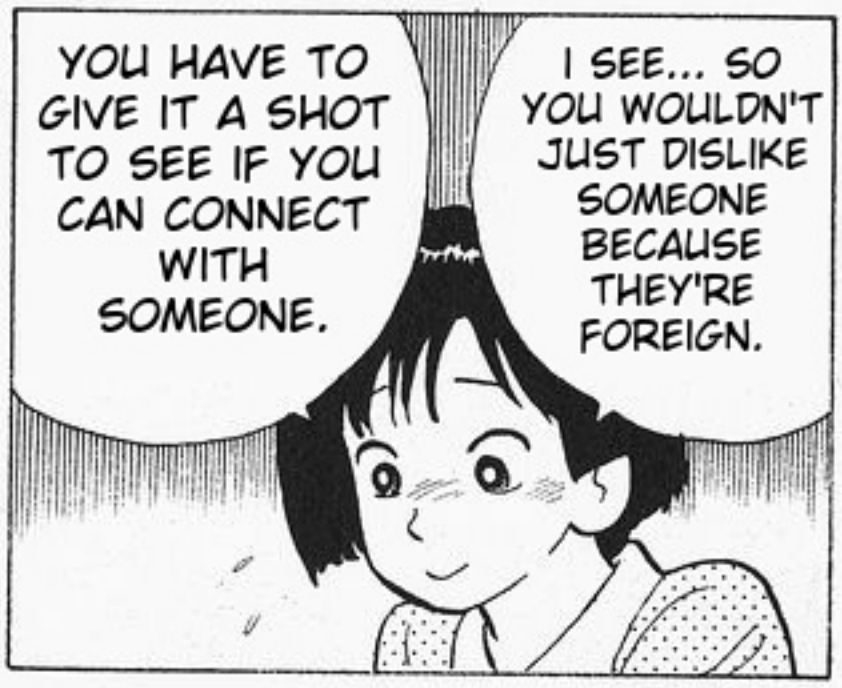
UNFORTUNATELY, THEIR HANDLING OF SEAFOOD LAGS BEHIND THAT OF THE JAPANESE AND CHINESE.

FISHERMAN'S WHARF IS PACKED WITH FISH MARKETS AND RESTAURANTS CATERING TO TOURISTS!

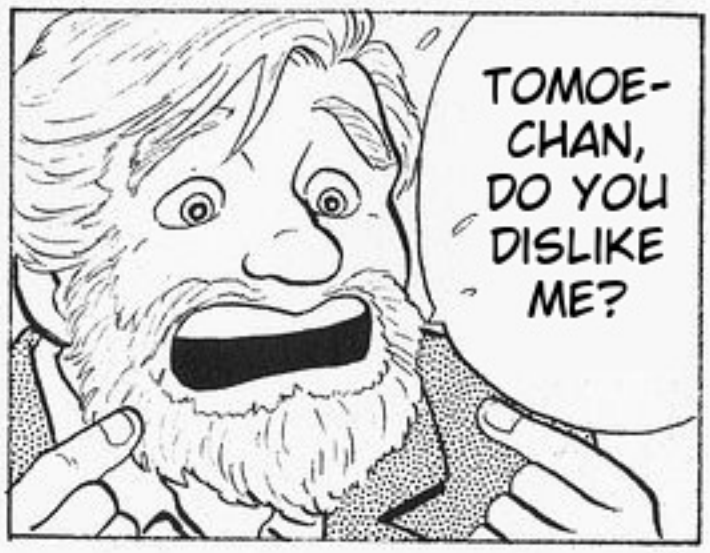
THEY CAN BE A BIT NUMB TO THE SMELL OF AGING SEAFOOD.

DELICIOUS!

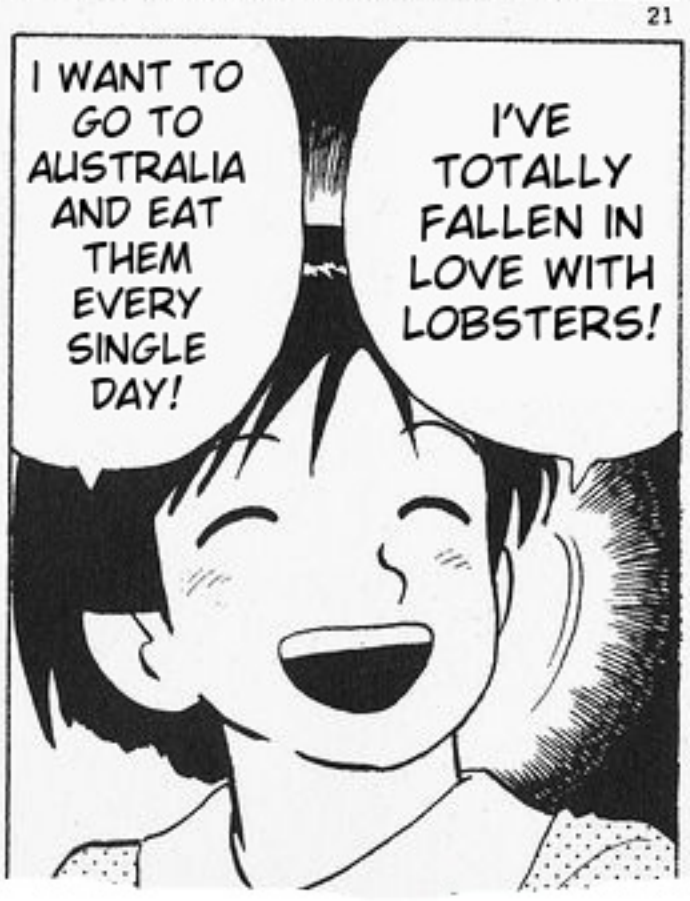
IF YOU HAD MET A FOREIGNER LIKE FRANK FIRST, WOULD YOU HAVE ENDED UP HATING ALL FOREIGNERS?
THAT'S RIGHT!


YOU HAVE TO GIVE IT A SHOT TO SEE IF YOU CAN CONNECT WITH SOMEONE.
I SEE... SO YOU WOULDN'T JUST DISLIKE SOMEONE BECAUSE THEY'RE FOREIGN.

THANK YOU SOOO MUCH!!
I DON'T DISLIKE YOU AT ALL! YOU SEEM VERY KIND AND FUN!!!


TOMOE-CHAN, DO YOU DISLIKE ME?

BUT EATING LOBSTERS EVERY DAY? THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS! I'D GO BANKRUPT!
SO YOU'RE ACTUALLY WILLING TO COME ALONG WITH ME?


I WANT TO GO TO AUSTRALIA AND EAT THEM EVERY SINGLE DAY!
I'VE TOTALLY FALLEN IN LOVE WITH LOBSTERS!

AND WITH THAT, ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL!

TOMOE-CHAN, IT SEEMS YOU'VE CONQUERED YOUR FEAR OF FOREIGNERS AND YOUR DISLIKE OF SHRIMP!

I'M SO GLAD!

ALRIGHT, LET'S DIVE RIGHT IN!

HOW LUXURIOUS!

THIS IS FANTASTIC!

IT'S NEW YEAR'S, AFTER ALL!

SAUTÉED WITH A DELIGHTFUL INFUSION OF CHINESE-STYLE SCALLIONS AND GINGER!

EARLIER, WE INDULGED IN THE DELIGHTFUL SASHIMI OF THE LOBSTER, AND NOW, LET'S CHOP UP ITS HEAD AND LEGS INTO BITE-SIZED PIECES,

22

THIS YEAR, LET'S BE LIVELY AND FEAST ON DELICIOUSNESS!

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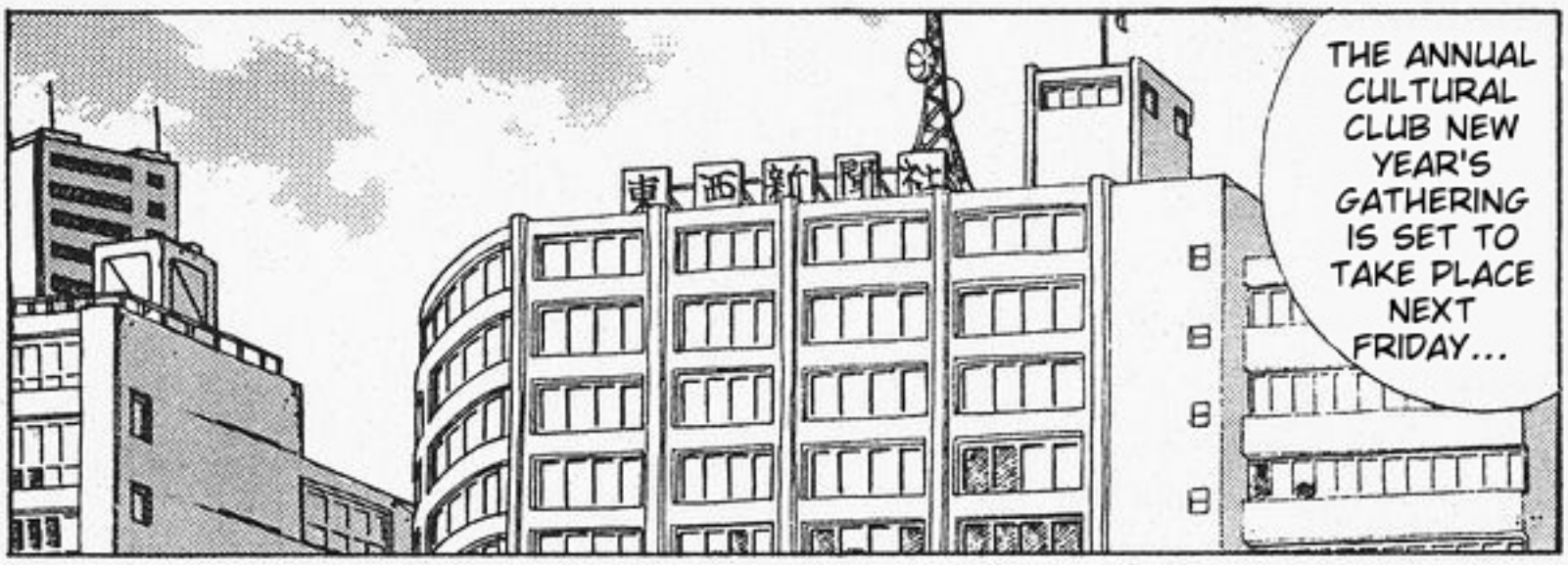
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THE ANNUAL CULTURAL CLUB NEW YEAR'S GATHERING IS SET TO TAKE PLACE NEXT FRIDAY...

GOOD GRIEF,
JUST PLAYING AROUND WITH YEAR-END PARTIES AND NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS...

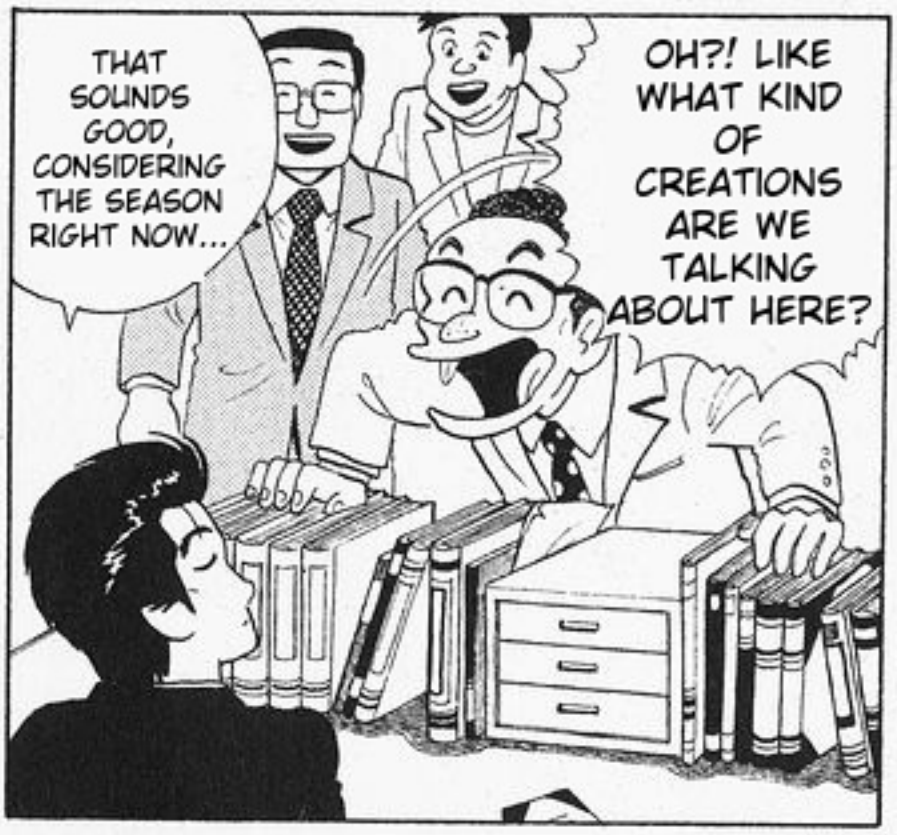
YES.
YAMAOKA AND KURITA WILL ORGANIZE IT.

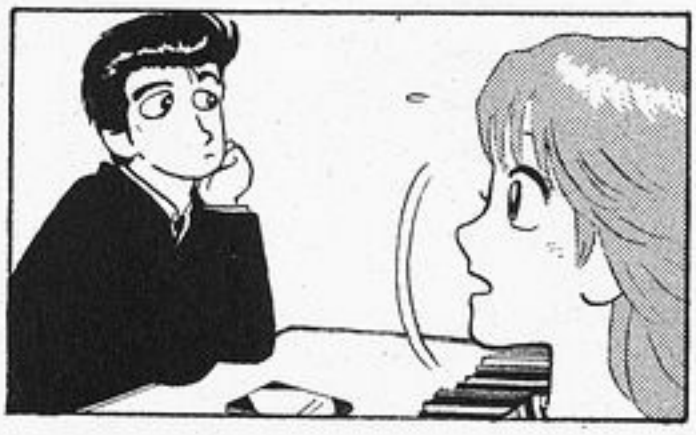
HEY, KURITA.
YOU'VE GOT SOME DISH CANDIDATES READY FOR THE ULTIMATE MENU, RIGHT?

2
WELL, UMM...

WOW, REALLY? DO YOU NOT LIKE IT?!
OH, WHAT A DREAM!! IF ONLY EVERY DAY COULD BE A YEAR-END PARTY OR A NEW YEAR CELEBRATION!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!





HEY, DON'T SAY SUCH GLOOMY THINGS!

HOW ABOUT ADDING SOME RAW LIVER FROM A TRIGGERFISH...?

I CAN MANAGE TO WHIP UP SOME STEAMED ANGLERFISH LIVER, THOUGH...

YOU CAN'T JUST STICK TO TWO DISHES AND CALL IT A DAY...

I'D REALLY LOVE TO TRY FOIE GRAS, YOU KNOW...!

ISN'T PUFFERFISH OR SOFT-SHELLED TURTLE OFF THE TABLE?

SO IN A WAY, CRAFTING THE ULTIMATE MENU IS ALMOST CRIMINAL!

DELICIOUS THINGS ARE ALWAYS EXPENSIVE!

ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE AIMING FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY!

WELL, I SUPPOSE YAMAOKA HAS A POINT...

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, I'M TELLING YOU!

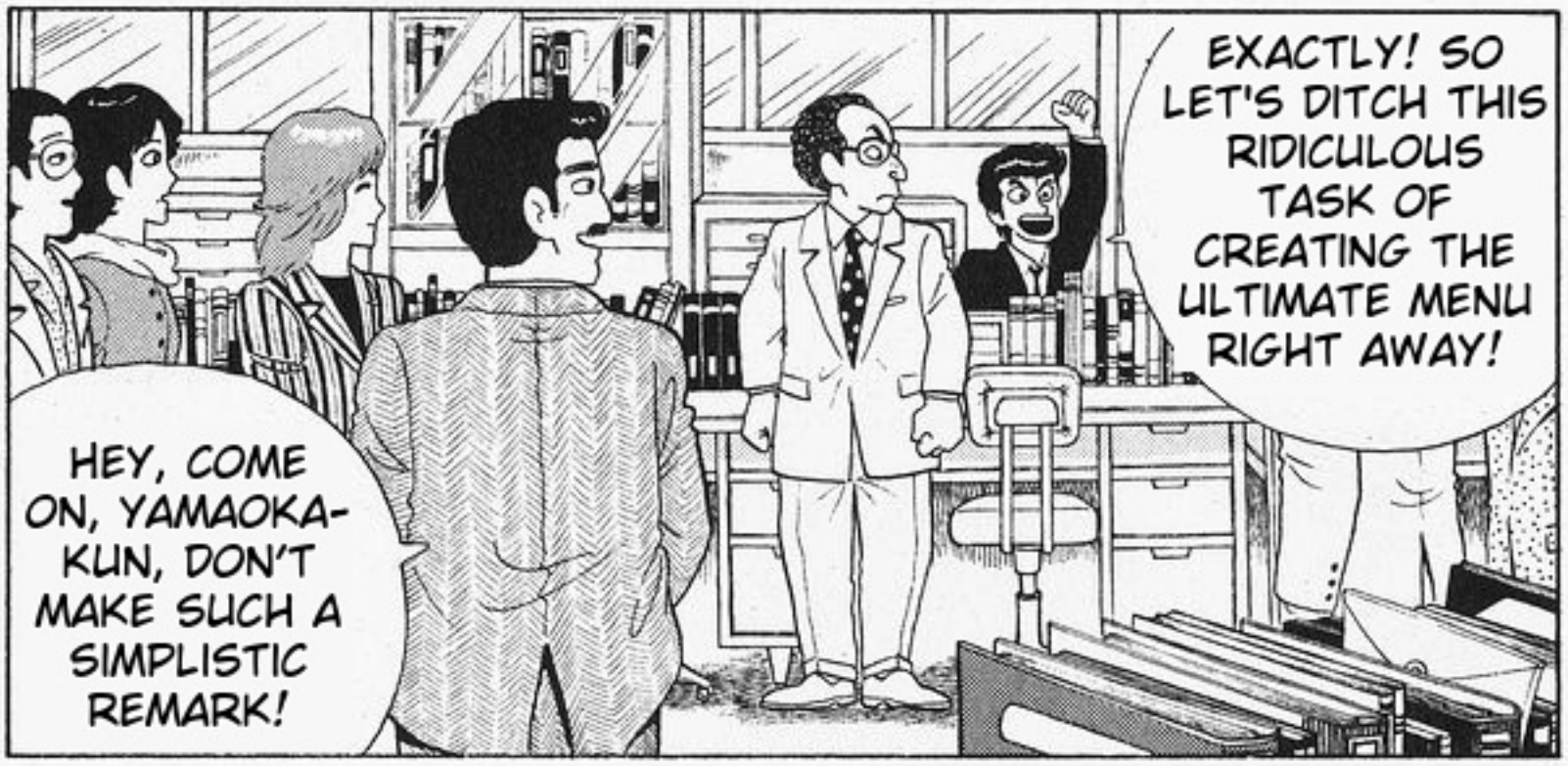
HMPH! AS AN EXCUSE FOR HOW LITTLE PROGRESS YOU'VE MADE ON THE ULTIMATE MENU, THAT'S QUITE IMPRESSIVE!

4

JAPAN, IN PARTICULAR, IS JUST OUTRAGEOUS.

IT'S A FACT THAT DELICIOUS FOOD COMES WITH A HEFTY PRICE TAG.

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!



I'M DEFINITELY BRINGING BACK THOSE LEFTOVER SASHIMI!

RIGHT! I'LL GRAB A CONTAINER TO TAKE SOME HOME.

OH HO, SUDDENLY WE'VE GONE FROM THE ULTIMATE MENU TO SOMETHING A BIT MORE FRUGAL, HAVEN'T WE?

BUT YOU KNOW, THERE ARE PLENTY OF FOLKS WHO LEAVE A LOT OF SASHIMI BEHIND!

A SASHIMI PLATTER SHOULD BE JUST FINE, RIGHT?

SPEAKING OF WHICH, DON'T FORGET THE DELIGHTFUL TASTE OF JELLIED BROTH!

OH WOW, IT LOOKS SO DELICIOUS!

BUT HEY, TUNA SASHIMI, WHEN SIMMERED WITH SOY SAUCE, SAKE, AND GINGER, IS TO DIE FOR!

6

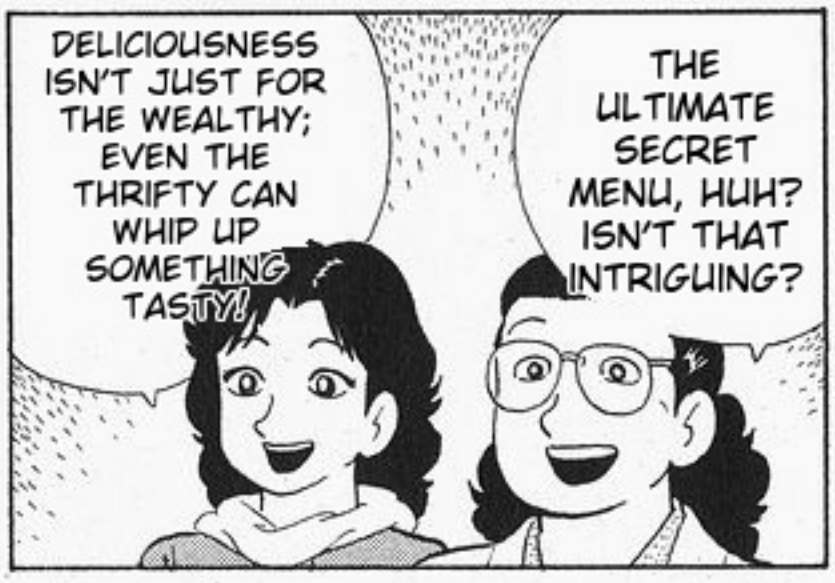
HMM, BUT THIS ISN'T THE MAIN STREET; IT'S THE BACK ALLEY, ISN'T IT?

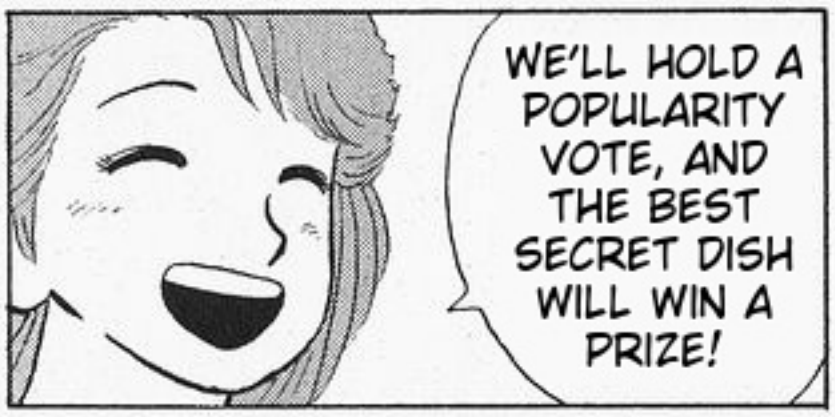
STILL, IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT IT'S ULTIMATELY DELICIOUS!

IF YOU KEEP THE BROTH LEFT OVER FROM COOKING FISH IN THE FRIDGE, IT SOLIDIFIES AND TURNS ABSOLUTELY SCRUMPTIOUS!

BUT HONESTLY, NONE OF THIS IS ANYWHERE NEAR THE ULTIMATE MENU.

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!





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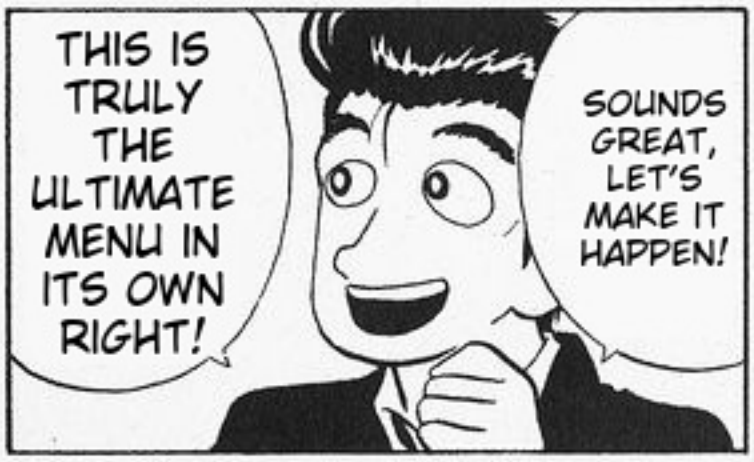
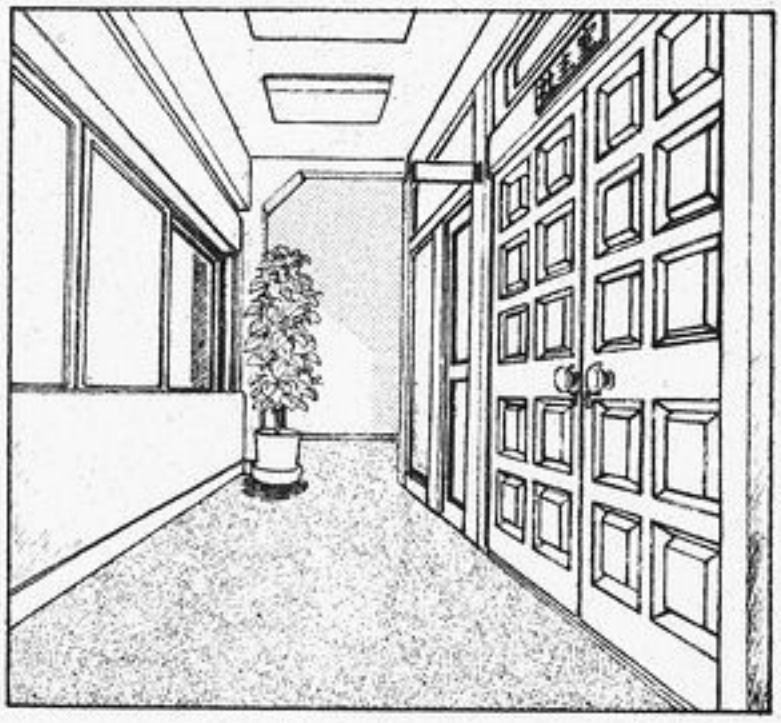


HMM... AM I REALLY GOING TO LOSE THIS BATTLE TO THE SEASONED WISDOM OF THE POST-WAR POVERTY ERA?
ALRIGHT, THOSE ARE FIGHTING WORDS!!!

ALRIGHT, I'M PULLING OUT MY SECRET WEAPON!

ALRIGHT THEN, LET'S GIVE IT OUR ALL!
HEHE, THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN!

IF IT'S A DISH YOU SECRETLY ENJOY AT HOME, ANYTHING GOES!
WHETHER IT'S LEFTOVERS, SOMETHING CHEAP, OR A CULINARY DISASTER...



WHAT? THE ULTIMATE HIDDEN MENU, YOU SAY?

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!

9

HAHA, WOULD I REALLY BRING SOMETHING THAT EXTRAVAGANT?

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HOLD ON, HOLD ON! I DON'T WANT LEFTOVERS FROM THE JAIL'S KITCHEN!!

THIS IS GOING TO BE SO ENTERTAINING! COUNT ME IN!

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MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD HIM...

AS A PERFORMER, I CAN'T LET SUCH A HILARIOUS MOMENT SLIP BY!

WELL, THIS IS BOUND TO BE A BLAST!

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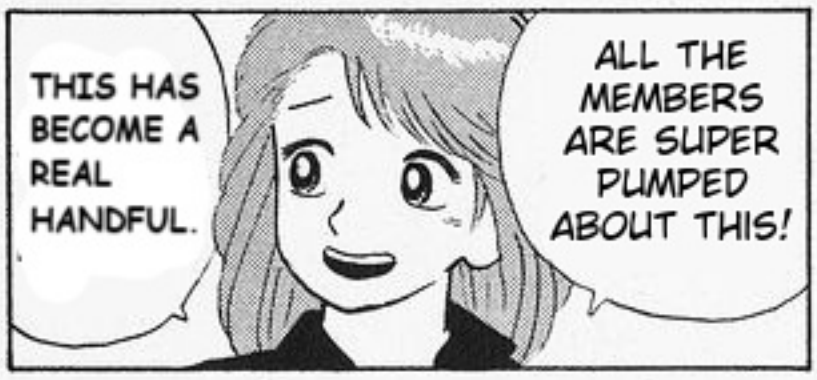
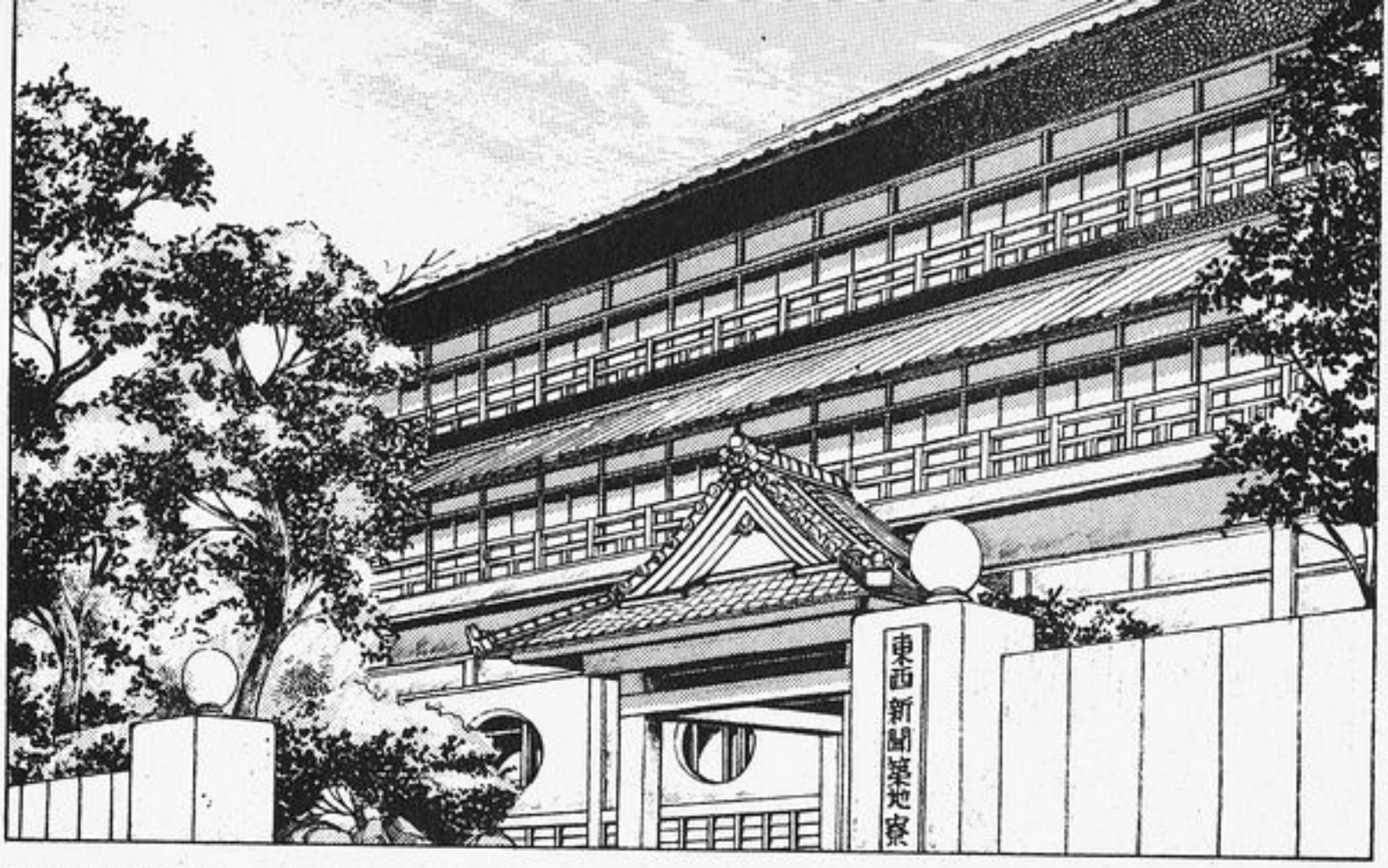
10

WOO, IT FEELS LIKE THINGS ARE SPIRALING OUT OF CONTROL!

OF COURSE, I'LL BE JOINING IN ON THE FUN!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!

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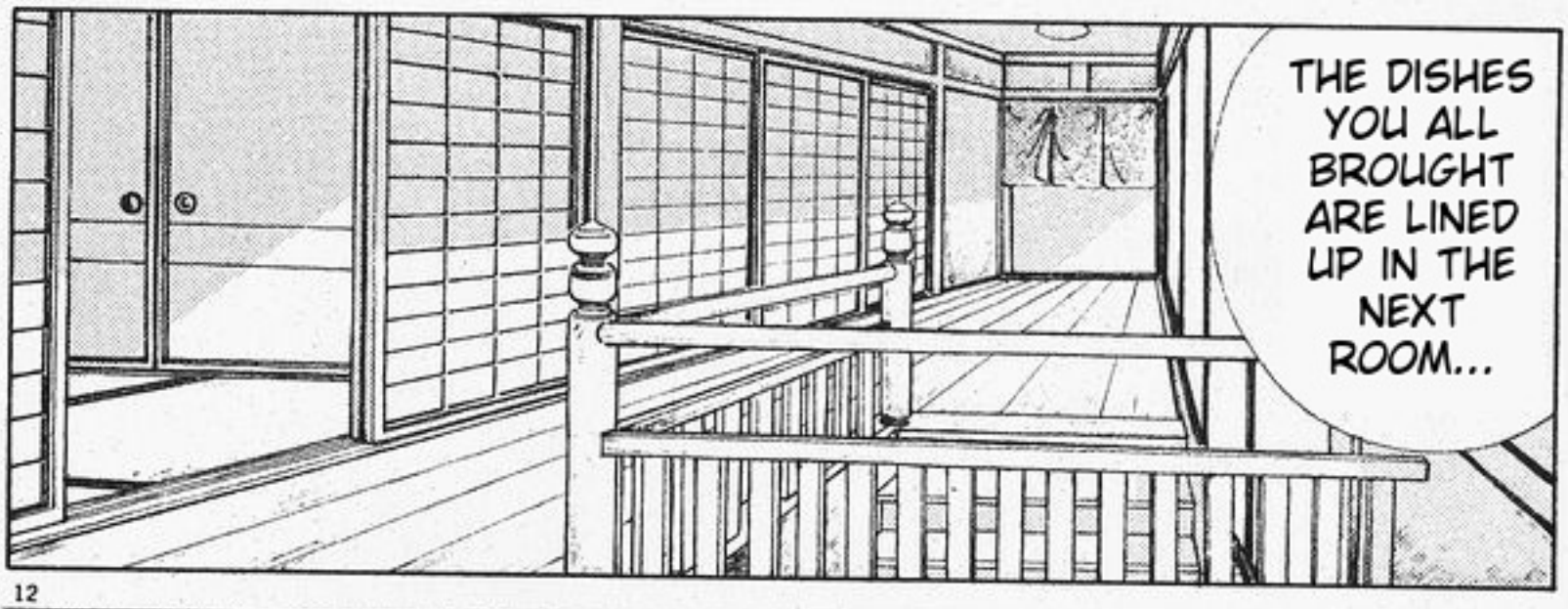
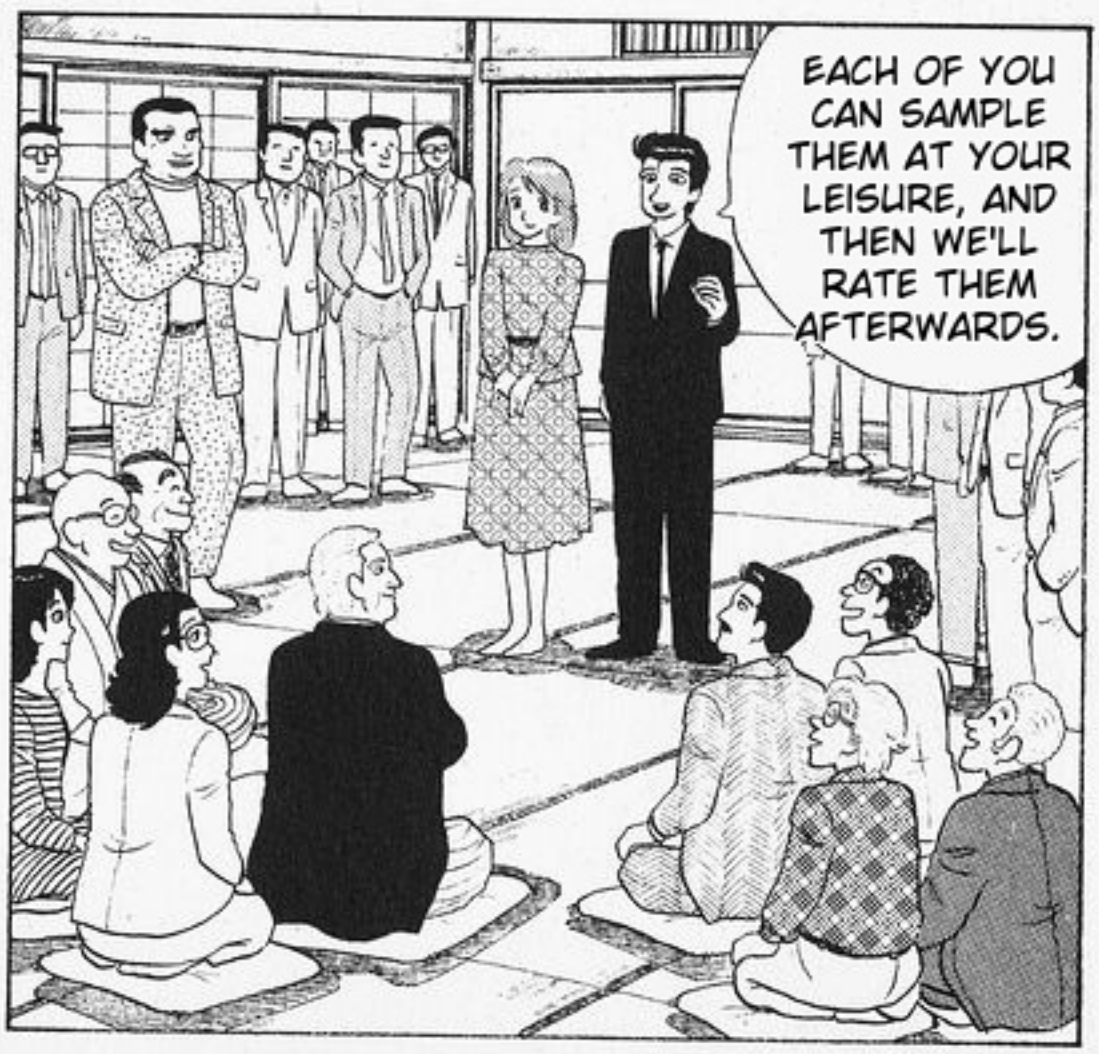
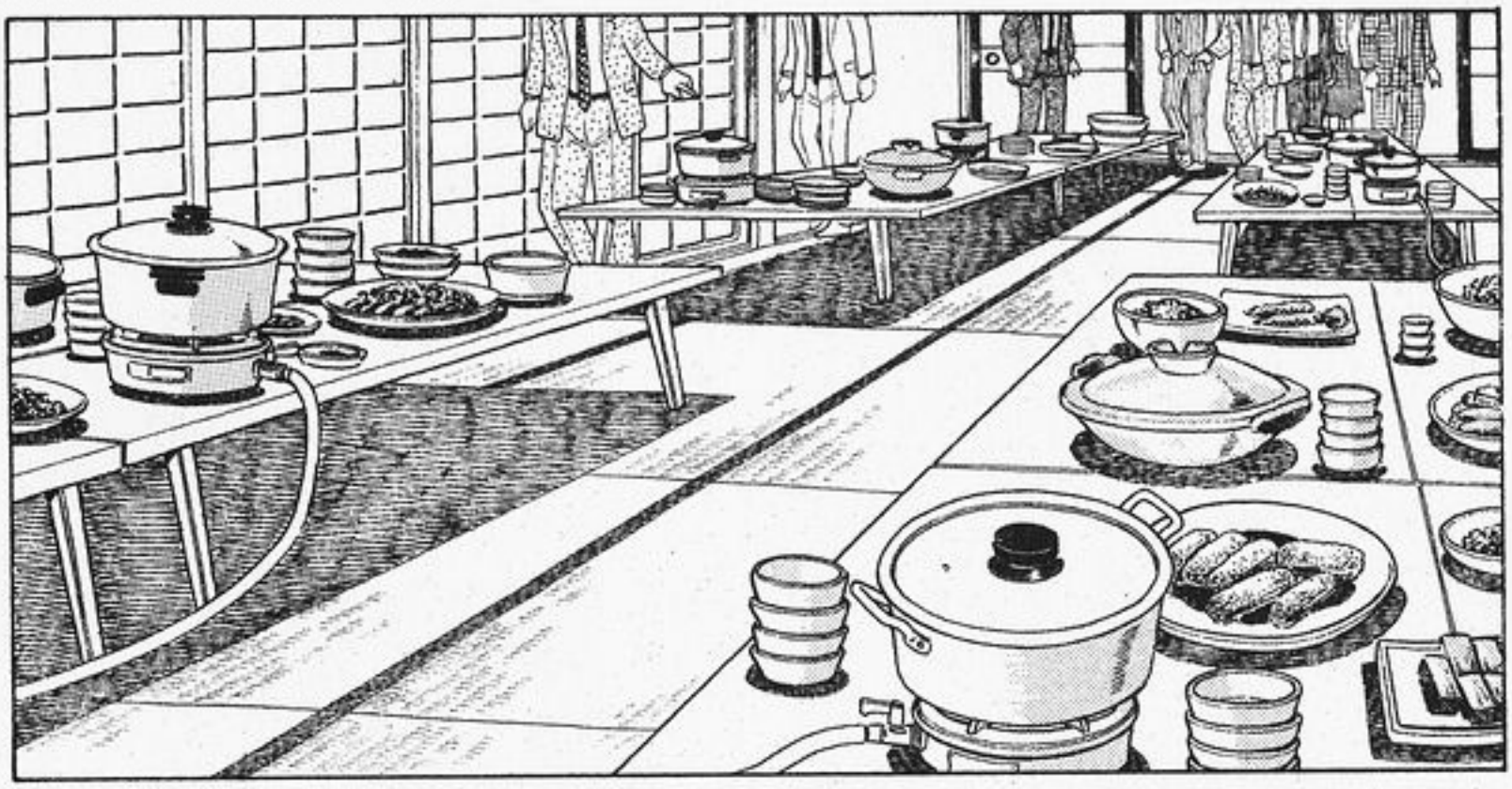

THE DISHES YOU ALL BROUGHT ARE LINED UP IN THE NEXT ROOM...

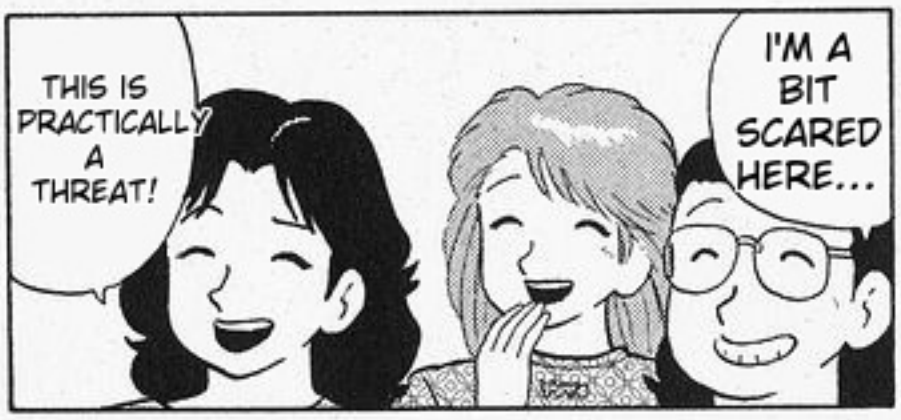
12

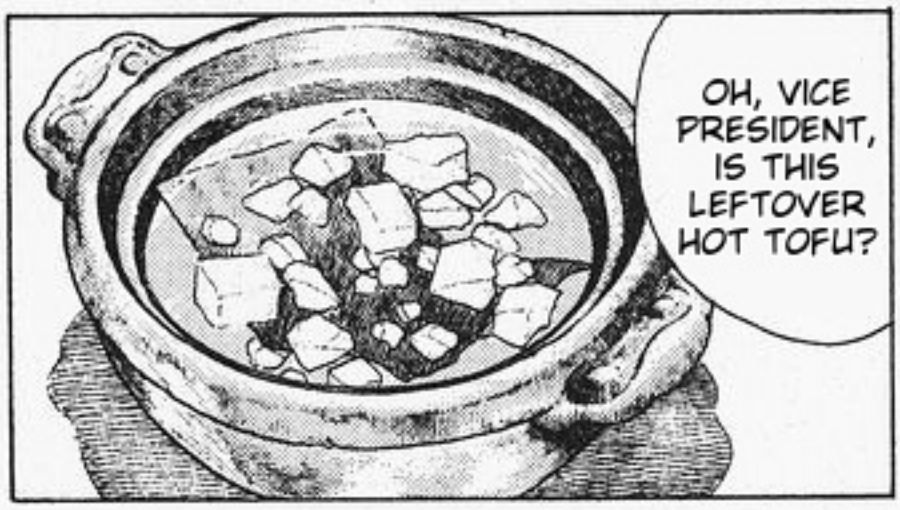
BUT WE CAN'T START UNTIL WE DIG IN!!
ALRIGHT, LET THE FEAST BEGIN!!

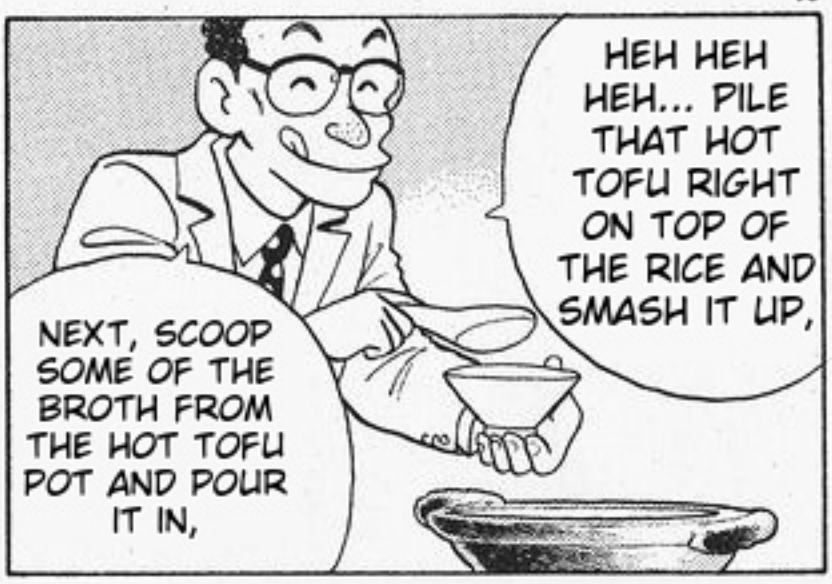

EACH OF YOU CAN SAMPLE THEM AT YOUR LEISURE, AND THEN WE'LL RATE THEM AFTERWARDS.

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!









DRIZZLE SOME SOY SAUCE ON TOP AND DIG IN! GO AHEAD!

WHEN THE WRAP PUFFS UP, THAT'S THE SWEET SPOT,

HO HO HO, IT'S ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS!!

NOTHING BEATS THIS AFTER A FEW DRINKS, RIGHT?

THE GRAND PRIZE IS ALL MINE, YOU KNOW!!

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MICROWAVE IT, AND YOU'LL UNLEASH A RICH, SAVORY BROTH...!

14

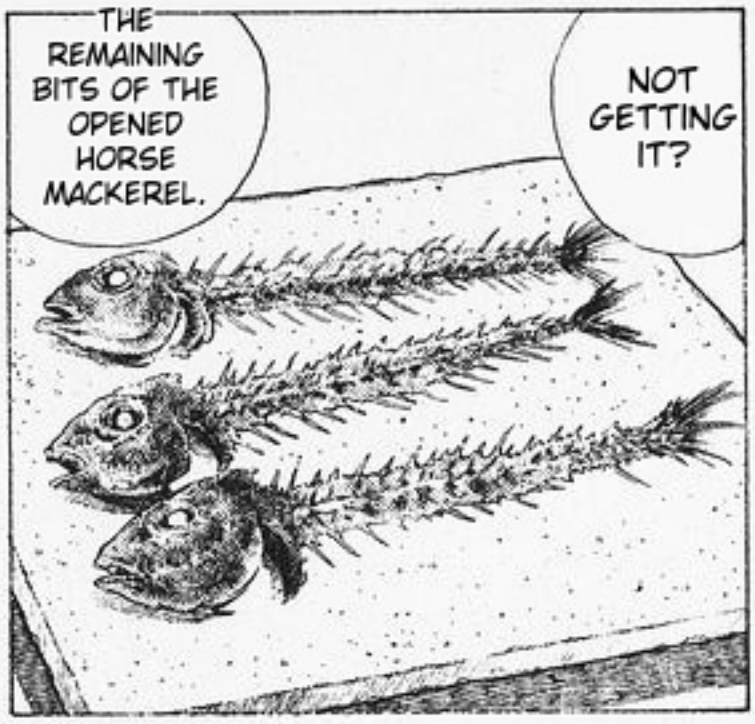
THIS IS THE LEFTOVER TONKATSU SOAKED IN SAUCE OVERNIGHT. JUST GIVE IT A WHIRL!

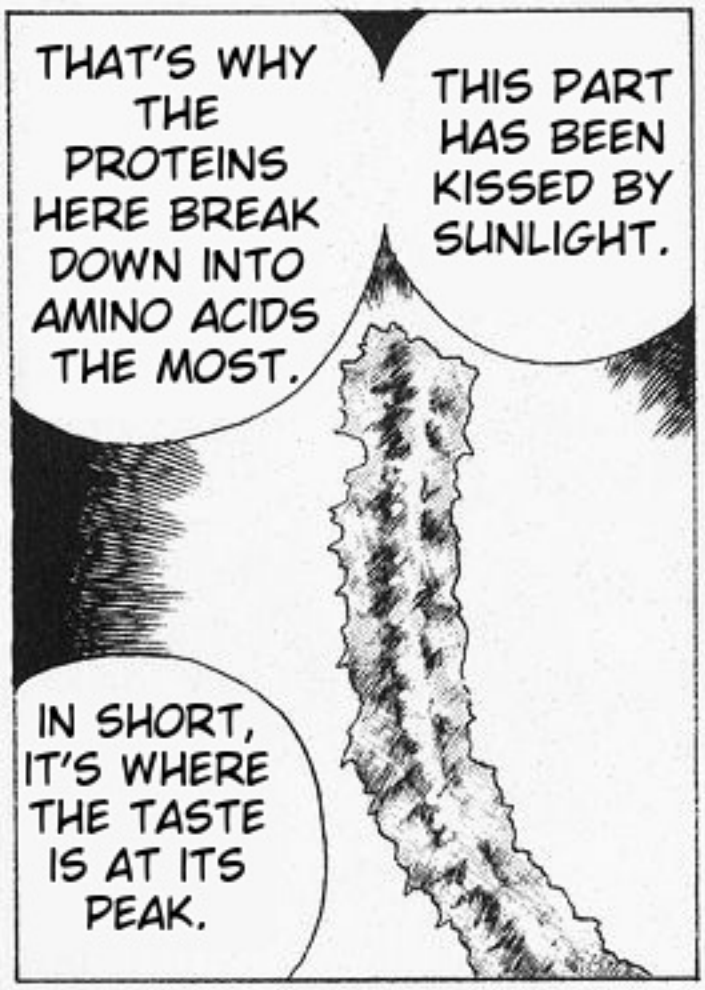
NOW, COME ON, GIVE THIS A TRY!

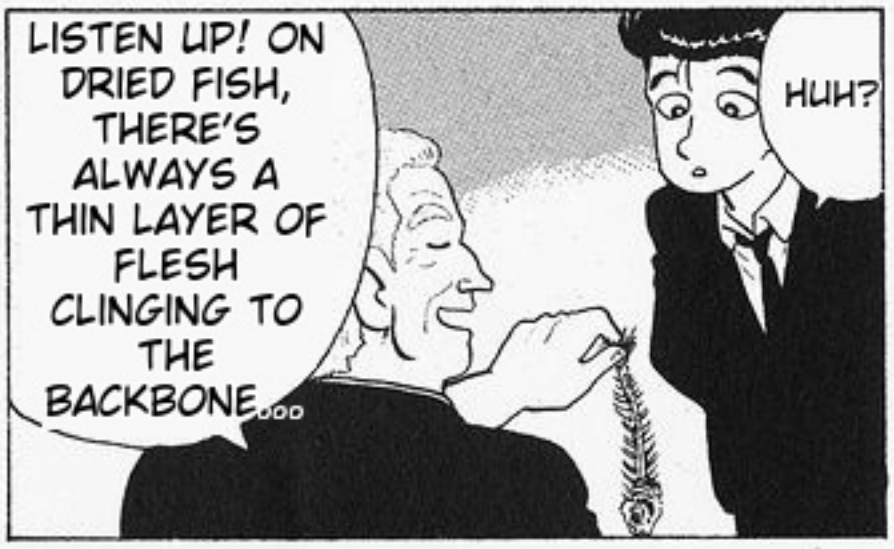
WHEN THE MEAT'S A BIT COLD, IT BRINGS OUT THAT UNIQUE AROMA—SO DELIGHTFUL!

OOH, IT'S SOAKED IN FLAVOR AND OH-SO-TASTY!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!







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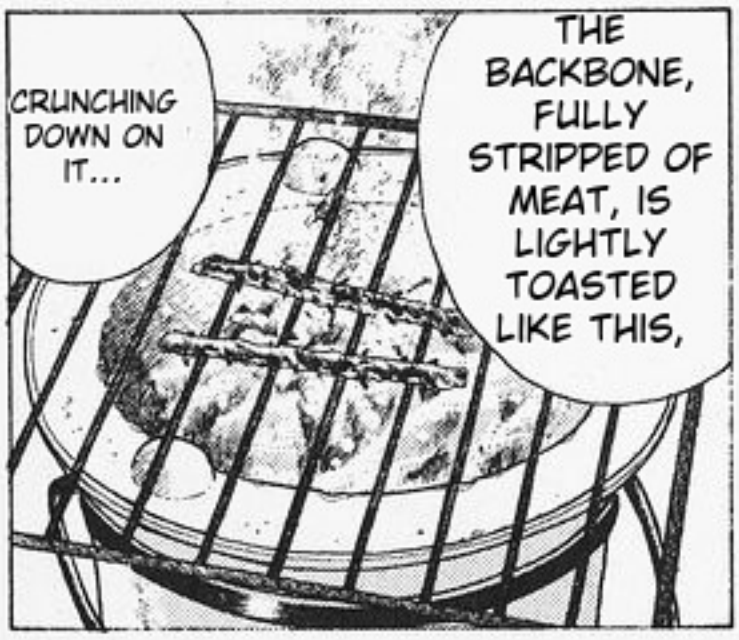
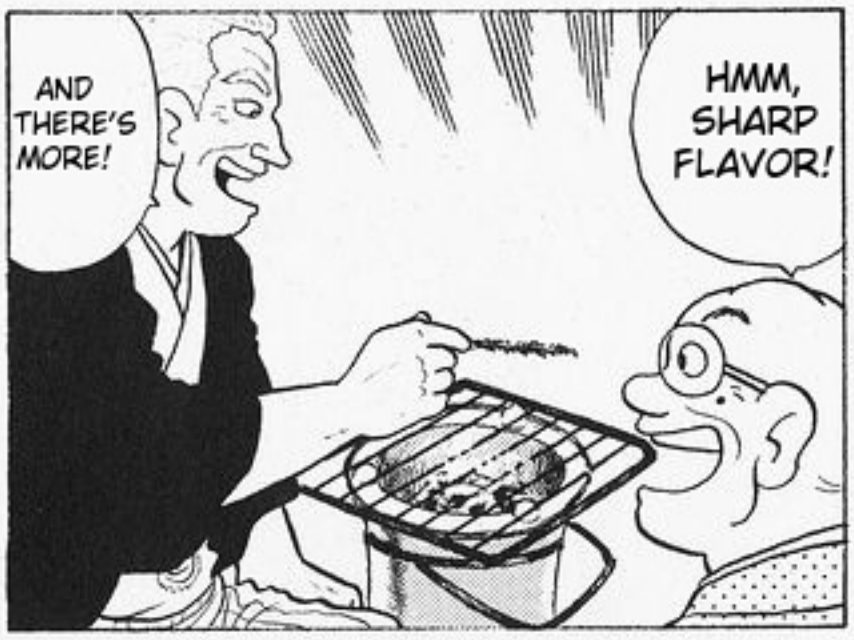




A SPLENDID BROTH IS ON THE WAY!

AS I POUR HOT WATER OVER THE NICELY CHARRED BONES AND DRIZZLE IN SOME SOY SAUCE,

AND EVEN MORE!

WITH A PENNY-PINCHING BOSS LIKE THIS, OUR COMPANY CAN KISS ANY BOLD GROWTH GOODBYE...

BUT STILL...

I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS JUST A SOFT-HEARTED SPENDTHRIFT, BUT WHO KNEW HE COULD PULL OFF SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

BRAVO! I'M TRULY IMPRESSED WITH YOU, OHARA!

HEY, YAMAOKA!

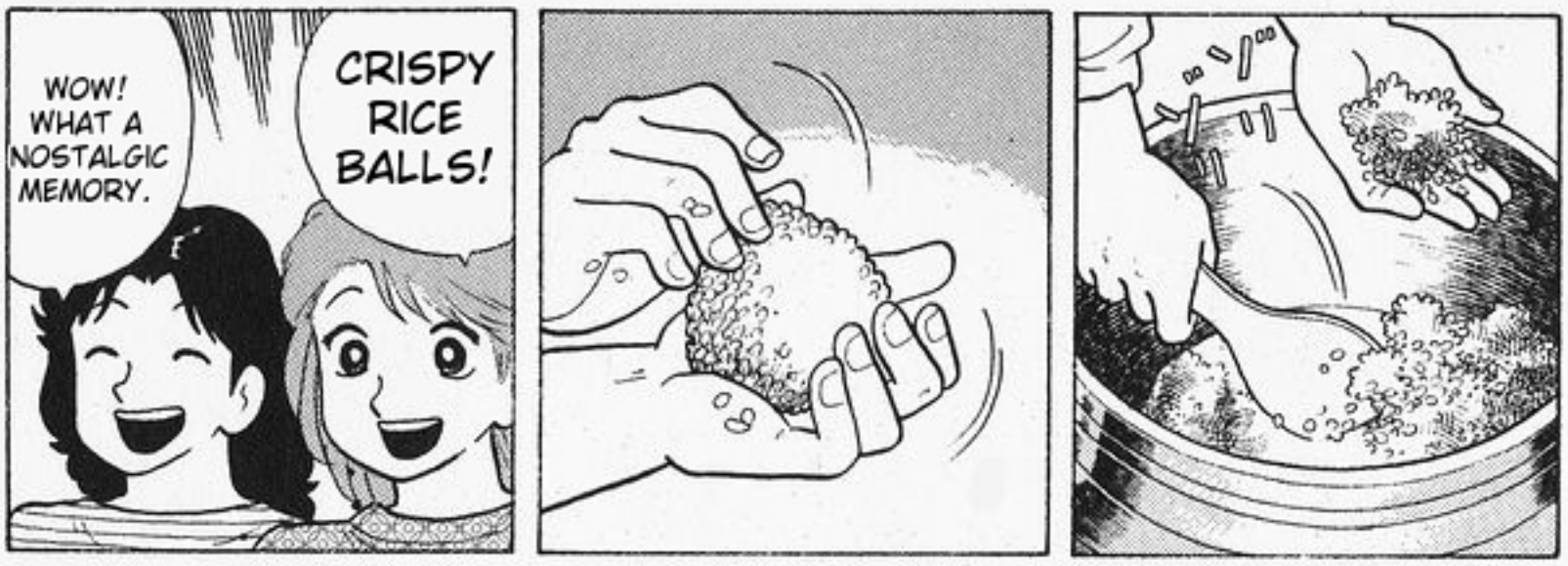
16

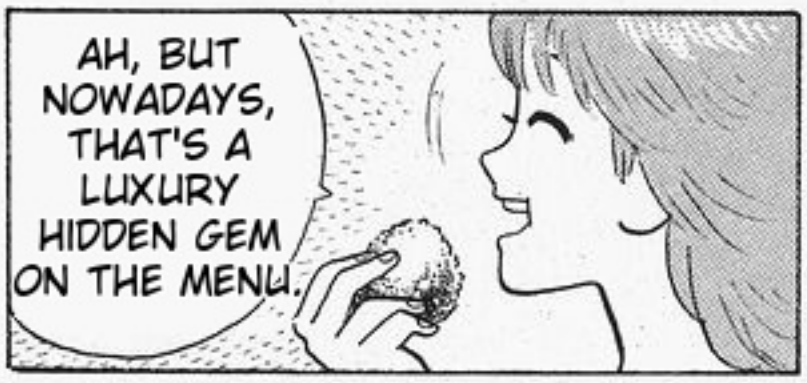
HEH... JUST GIVE IT A TASTE.

IS THIS SOME SORT OF AMERICAN SECRET MENU?

WHAT DELICIOUS CREATION IS JEFF SERVING UP THIS TIME?

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!





17

THEY MIGHT BE SELLING SCRAPS AS IF THEY'RE BRAND NEW.

HMM... I SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL WHEN SHOPPING AT THE NEW GINZA DEPARTMENT STORE FROM NOW ON.

HA HA HA! WELL THEN, HOW ABOUT YOU TRY SOME OF MINE?!

YAMAOKA-KUN!

BOTH ARE TYPICALLY DISCARDED, BUT WHEN YOU COMBINE THE TWO, YOU GET SOMETHING UNBELIEVABLY DELICIOUS!!

I SIMMERED THE TAIL OF THE TAKUAN IN THE SAUCE FROM THE SIMMERED FISH.

BOTH THE KOMBU AND BONITO FLAKES ARE TECHNICALLY USED-UP REMNANTS AFTER MAKING DASHI.

HA HA! THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE MISTAKEN.

THAT SAID, THE BONITO IS TOP-NOTCH FROM MAKURAZAKI, AND THE KOMBU IS SOURCED FROM OSAFUNE.

THIS IS YOUR SPLENDID ADDITION TO THE MENU?

THIS IS JUST BOILED KOMBU AND BONITO FLAKES, ISN'T IT?

18

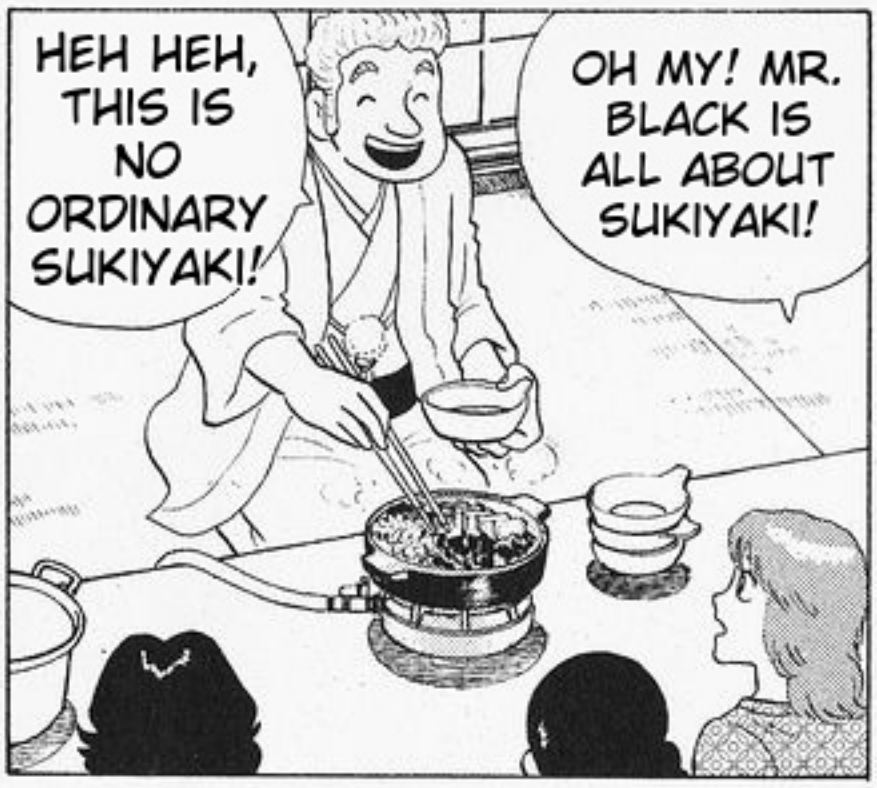
HMM, IT'S TRUE THAT IT'S THE LEFTOVERS, BUT WHAT LUXURIOUS LEFTOVERS THEY ARE!

THIS IS QUITE REFINED!

IT'S PERFECT AS A SNACK WITH SAKE OR A SIDE DISH FOR RICE!

THIS HAS BEEN LIGHTLY SIMMERED IN SAKE AND SOY SAUCE FOR A DELICATE FLAVOR.

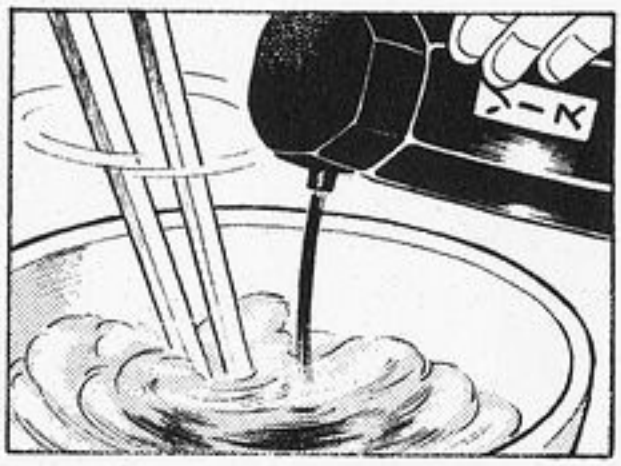
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!



19

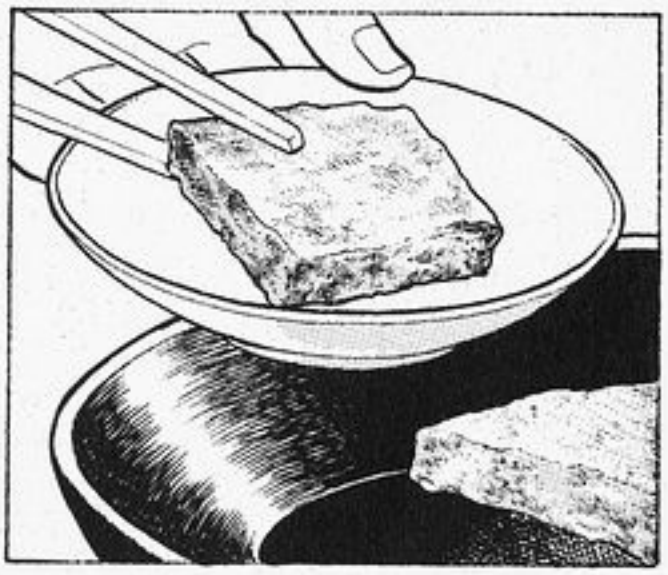
I DIDN'T WANT TO WASTE IT, SO I COOKED IT UP, AND IT TURNED OUT ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS!

MY BROTHER ONCE TRIED TO POUR RAW EGG OVER RICE BUT ACCIDENTALLY GRABBED THE HOT SAUCE INSTEAD OF THE SOY SAUCE...

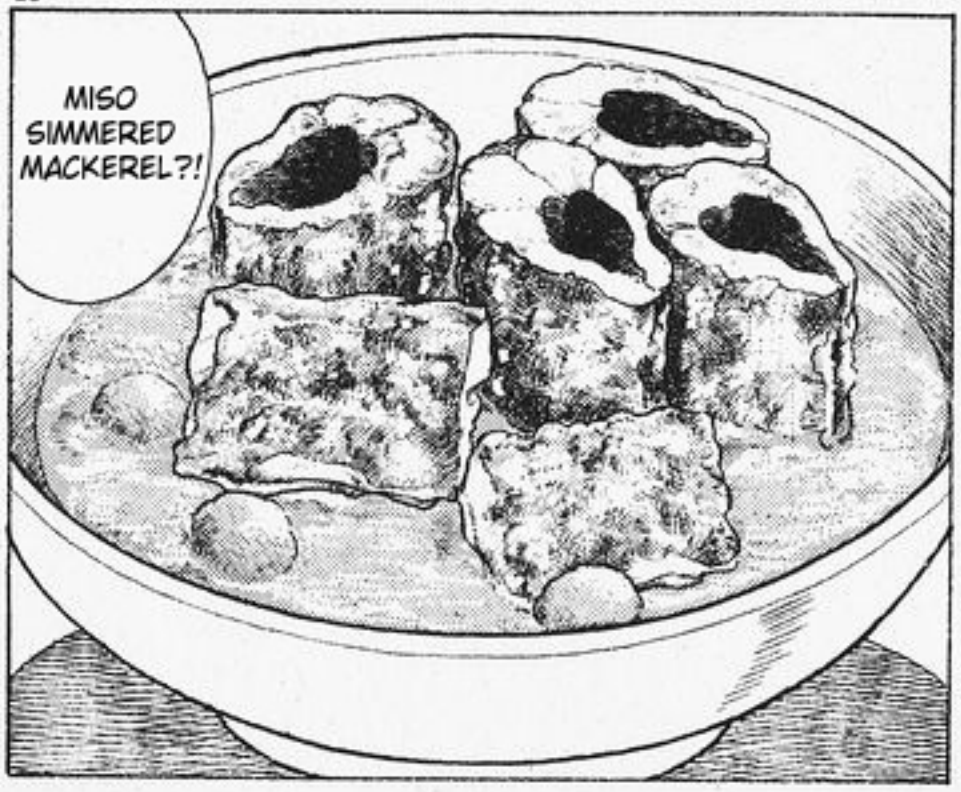


HOW INTRIGUING! IT'S A WESTERN-STYLE ROLLED OMELET!

OH MY! THIS HAS A SURPRISINGLY MODERN FLAVOR!



MISO SIMMERED MACKEREL?!

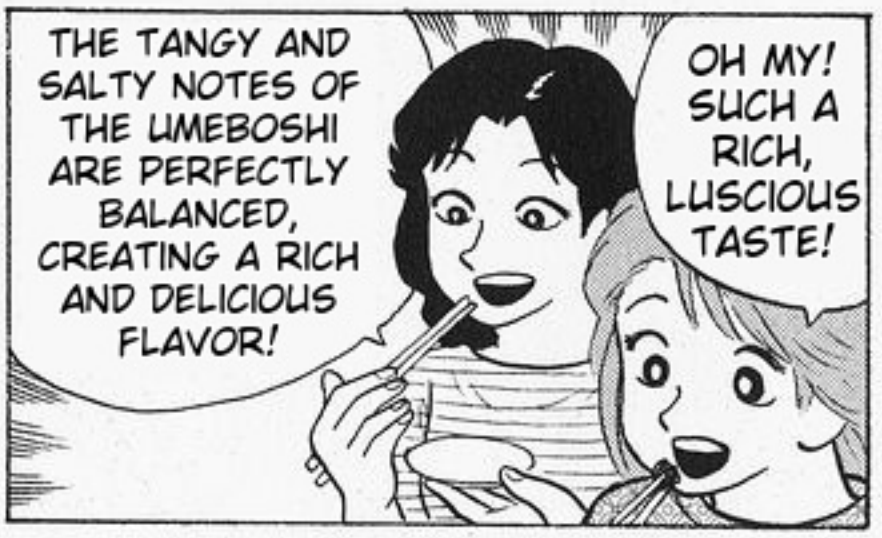


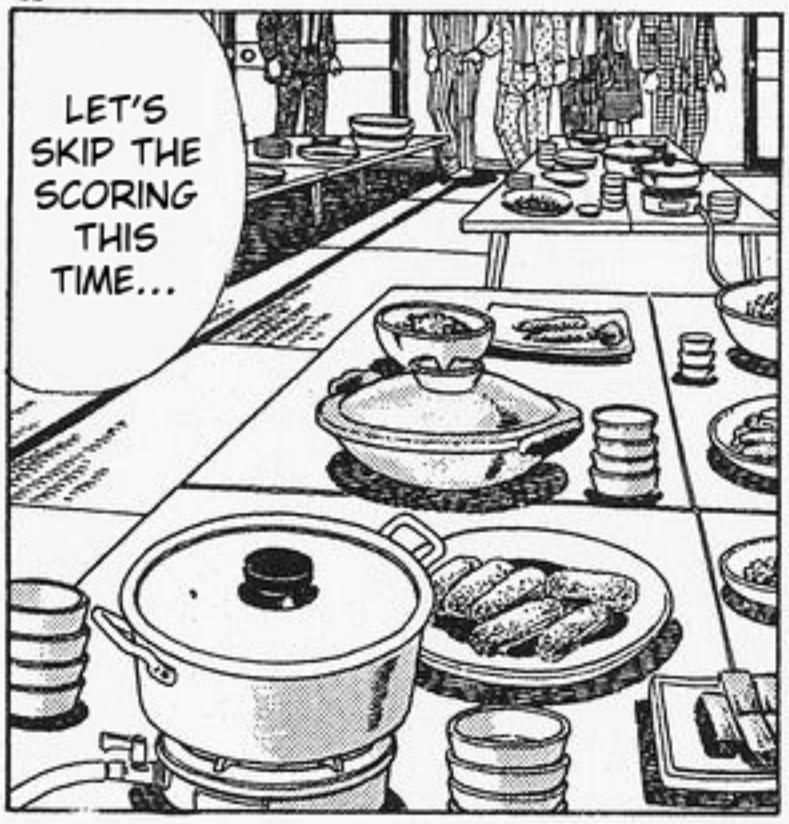
WHAT DID YAMAOKA BRING?

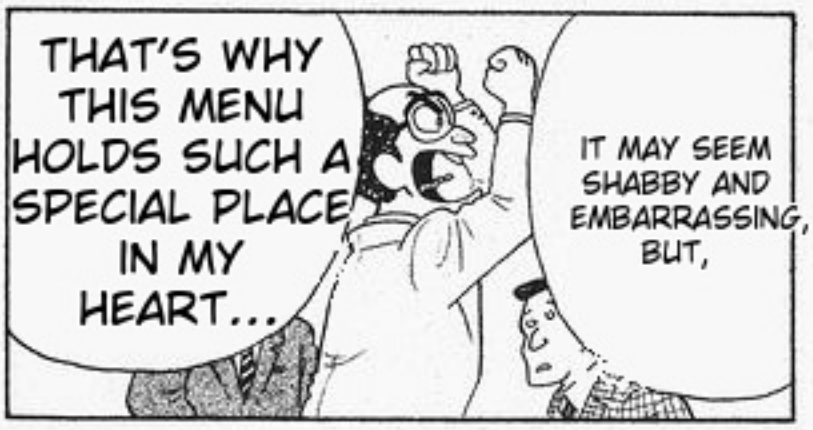
HERE YOU GO.

*TL NOTE: THE SAUCE THAT KURITA'S BROTHER GRABBED INSTEAD OF THE SOY SAUCE WAS NOT SPECIFIED IN THE MACHINE TRANSLATION. I GUESSED IT WAS HOT SAUCE BASED ON CONTEXT CLUES, BUT IT MIGHT'VE BEEN SOMETHING ELSE...

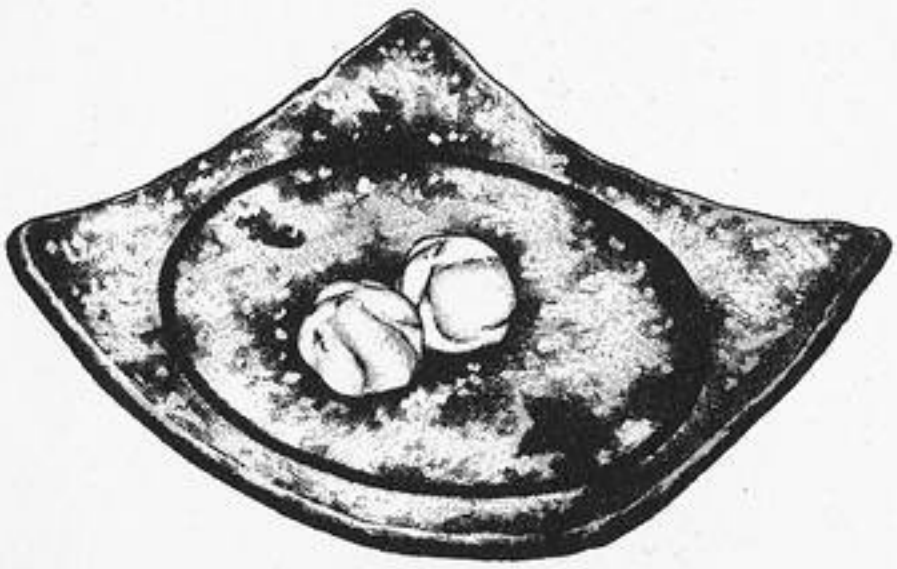
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!







'OISHINBO' VOLUME 15 -
THE END -



美味(おい)しんぼ15　—究極VS至高—

ビッグ コミックス

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